

MANITOBA

SASKATCHEWAN

ALBERTA

Official Organ

*Union of Manitoba Municipalities;
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities
Association; Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities; Union of
Alberta Municipalities; Alberta As-
sociation of Municipal Districts;
Manitoba Good Roads Association.*

The Western Municipal News

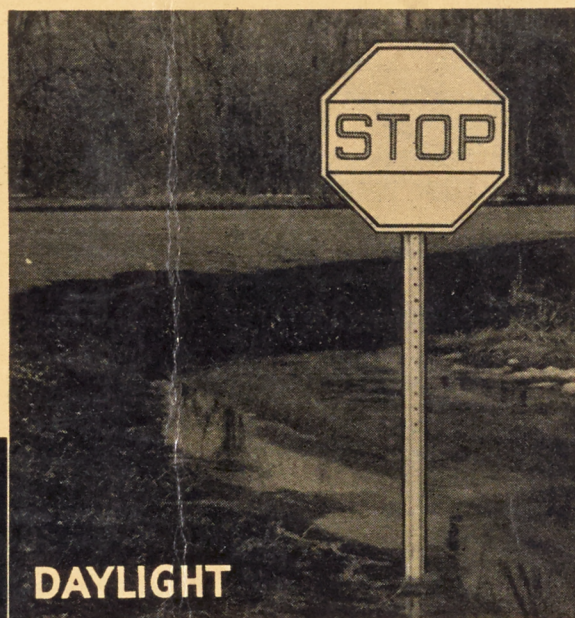
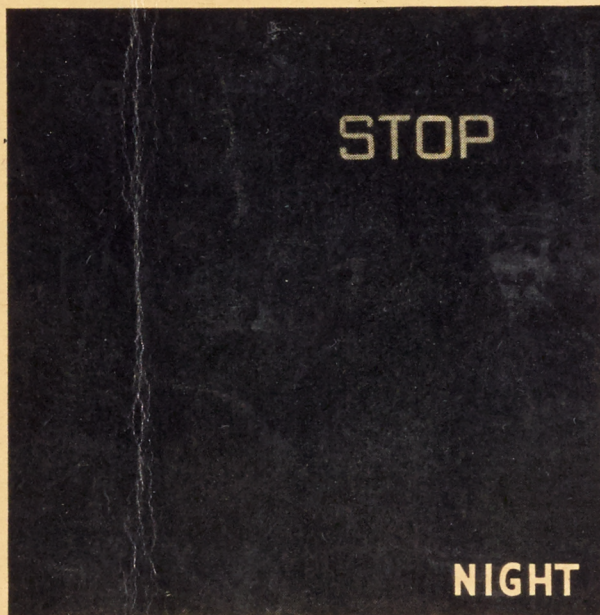
VOLUME 37

MAY, 1942

No. 5

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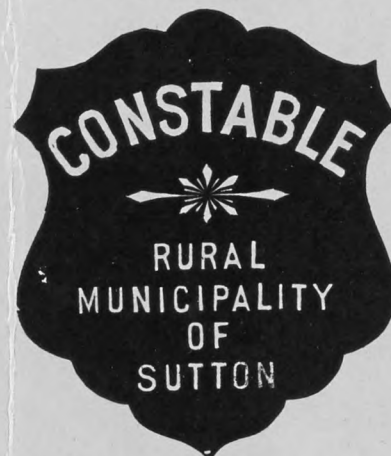
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(MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT)

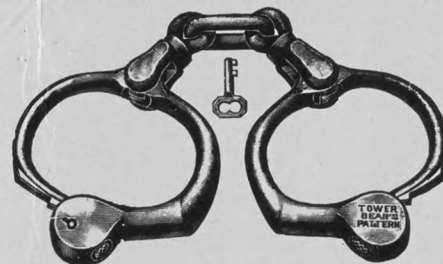
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The Western Municipal News

ESTABLISHED 1906

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ESTABLISHED 1906

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN

Union of Manitoba Municipalities, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Union of Alberta Municipalities, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Manitoba Good Roads Association.

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Items of interest to municipalities will always be welcomed by the Editor.

All copy for change of advertisement must be in by the 15th of the month preceding that for which the advertisement is intended.

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VOL. 37

MAY, 1942

No. 5

WESTERN UNIONS

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Secretary.....JOHN SPALDING, Miniota

Manitoba Good Roads Association

President.....PERCY BEACHELL, Rosser
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Secretary.....J. J. MCGURRAN, 608 McCallum Hill Bldg., Regina

Associated Committee of Saskatchewan Rural Municipal Secretary-Treasurers

Chairman.....F. W. POHLMANN, Shaunavon
Secretary.....ROY E. DAVIS, Mazenod

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WOOD MASONITE REPLACES METAL—CONSERVE STEEL.

Canada's resources in timber continue to play a most prominent part in the War Effort. The increased demand for Metals for war purposes and the abundance of wood in our country have resulted in a swing-back from metal to wood for a variety of purposes and to the consideration of wood or wood derivatives for a number of new uses. Wood is meeting a shortage of steel and carries on where steel ends. The Willson Stationery Company Ltd., (Municipal Department) are introducing, in municipal offices, tempered pressed wood masonite. They are supplying tempered pressed wood cabinets, with steel framework and ball-bearing metal slide arms, also furniture, waste baskets, desk trays, transfer cases, etc. Wood, in its natural form or after processing, is helping to meet a shortage for a large variety of other goods.

To the Secretary—

Will you please send in list of 1942 Council at your early convenience.

Thank you!

EDITOR, WESTERN MUNICIPAL NEWS

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association

Thirty-Seventh Annual Convention, Regina, June 23-24-25, 1942

PRESIDENT'S PRE-CONVENTION MESSAGE

To the Editor,
The Western Municipal News.

DEAR MADAM:

May I encroach upon your valuable space to issue, as President of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, a brief pre-convention message



S. N. MACEachern, Esq.
President, S.U.M.A.

to all persons engaged in Urban Municipal work in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Never in the history of Municipal Institutions has the significance of municipal government been more realistic than today. For the first time in our history as a British possession our shores are in more or less imminent danger of attack by our enemies. In countries already under the Nazi yoke the brunt of such attack has invariably fallen on Municipal Institutions. As might be expected those guiding the destinies of municipal

administrations in those unhappy countries rose to the occasion, and many indeed are the tributes that have been paid to the heroism, the speed and the efficiency with which they went about their tasks. Already in Canada municipalities, not only near the coast areas but also inland, are gearing themselves for any emergencies that may arise.

Saskatchewan municipalities have discarded the "it-can't-happen-here" philosophy of the earlier months of the war and are actively engaged in instituting civil defence organizations. I am satisfied that if and when the day of testing comes, Saskatchewan municipalities will give a good account of themselves.

Once a year those engaged in Urban Municipal work in our province have an opportunity of meeting to discuss their problems. Down the years much of the progressive legislation which has found its way into our statutes has resulted from the discussions that took place at conventions. At these conventions are found experts in every branch of municipal administration. There are present Mayors of cities and towns, Commissioners, City Clerks, Assessors, Medical Health Officers, Overseers, Aldermen and Councillors, together with representatives of the Government's Department of Municipal Affairs. What a rare opportunity of finding out how one's handling of a particular municipal department can be improved! Every urban municipality should

make an effort to be represented. This year the convention is being held in the city of Regina, from the 23rd to the 25th of June. Not only do we welcome Urban representatives from Saskatchewan, but also from the other Western Provinces. Many important questions will be up for discussion. Some of them will concern the war effort and the steps being taken by the municipalities to aid that effort. Others will be concerned with civil defence and still others with problems that have faced municipalities for years. For a thorough discussion the Association needs the presence of representatives from every section of the province, and from as large a group of municipalities as possible. To all, therefore, interested in urban municipal work I extend a kind invitation to be present.

May I also take this opportunity of complimenting you, Madam Editor, on the very able manner in which you have chronicled the work of our Association this year and on the very interesting articles that have appeared in your columns dealing with municipal problems. Long may you reign!

Yours sincerely,

S. N. MACEachern,
President, Saskatchewan Urban
Municipalities' Association.

v v v

THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

I have to advise that the Thirty-seventh Annual Convention of the above Association will be held in the City of Regina on June 23rd, 24th and 25th next, and the meeting of the Assessors of the Province will also be held in the morning of the 23rd.

This occasion affords an opportunity of conferring with others in regard to municipal matters, and every facility will be given delegates to discuss the resolutions and submit for consideration any problems encountered in their individual municipalities.

The City of Regina is planning entertainment for the delegates and their ladies, so it is hoped that the meeting will be well attended and that your municipality will be represented. A copy of the programme will be forwarded as soon as final arrangements have been completed.

Please see that all resolutions for submission to the Convention are forwarded to me on or before **Wednesday, May 20th**, and it is suggested that if at all possible each resolution be supported by a written statement setting out the reasons for desired changes in legislation.

If your membership fee has not already been forwarded I shall be pleased to receive it in due course.

Yours very truly,

W. E. HODGE,

Hon. Sec.-Treas., S.U.M.A.

v v v

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, June 23rd

1.30 p.m.—Registration of Delegates.

2.00 p.m.—Formal Opening—Hon. W. J. Patterson,
Premier of Saskatchewan.

Address of Welcome—C. C. Williams,
Esq., Mayor, Regina.

Reply on behalf of Visiting Delegates,
F. R. Beggs, Esq., Mayor, Wilkie.
President's Address—S. N. MacEachern,
Esq., Mayor, City of Saskatoon.

Annual Report—W. E. Hodge, Esq.,
F.C.A., Hon. Sec.-Treas., Moose Jaw.
Report—R. J. Westgate, Esq., Com-
missioner, City of Regina, Member of
Advisory Committee, Local Govern-
ment Board.

Report—Directors of Saskatchewan
Anti-Tuberculosis League—Commis-
sioners A. Leslie, Esq., Saskatoon and
R. J. Westgate, Esq., Regina.

Report—State Hospital and Medical
League.

Report—Committee re Fire Insurance—
Alderman, A. M. Eddy, Esq., Saska-
toon.

4.30 p.m.—Address—J. J. Smith, Esq., Deputy
Minister, Department of Municipal
Affairs, Regina—Subject: "Taxation
and Public Expenditures."

Resolutions

6.30 p.m.—Dinner at Hotel Saskatchewan as guests
of City of Regina.

v v v

Wednesday, June 24th

9.30 a.m.—Report—Conference of Mayors and
Canadian Municipalities—Mayor S.
N. MacEachern, Saskatoon.

10.00 a.m.—Discussion.

Fraternal Greetings—Saskatchewan As-
sociation of Rural Municipalities,
J. G. Knox, Esq., President, Tuxford.
Saskatchewan School Trustees As-
sociation.

Resolutions.

11.00 a.m.—Address—Alderman Mrs. A. Walker,
Regina, Subject: "The Growth of
Community Consciousness."

Discussion.

Resolutions.

12.15 p.m.—Luncheon.

v v v

Wednesday Afternoon

2.00 p.m.—Report of Conference of Assessors.

2.30 p.m.—Address—Alderman Dean Cronkite,
University of Saskatchewan, Saska-
toon, Subject: "Municipal Institutions
in a Democracy."

Discussion.

Resolutions.

4.00 p.m.—Drive around City.

5.00 p.m.—Afternoon Tea—Government House.

6.30 p.m.—Dinner at Kitchener Hotel as guests of
the Board of Trade.

v v v

Thursday, June 25th

9.30 p.m.—Resolutions.

9.30 a.m.—Address—Hon. R. J. M. Parker,
Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regina.

10.00 a.m.—Election of Officers.

Election of Directors (2) to Anti-T.B.
League.

Selection of Meeting Place for 1943
Convention.

11.00 a.m.—Resolutions.

12.15 p.m.—Luncheon.

Thursday Afternoon

2.00 p.m.—Address—Brig. Gen. Alex Ross, C.M.G.,
D.S.O., V.D., Commandant, Saska-
atchewan Veterans Security Corps,
Regina.

2.30 p.m.—Resolutions.

General Business.

Unfinished Business.

GOD SAVE THE KING

ROAD SIGNS REMOVED

(Issued By The Manitoba Good Roads
Association.)

Warning signs, which used to remind motorists
that 50 miles an hour was the maximum speed on
highways, have been taken down and the lawful rate
of travel shall not be more than 40 miles.

The new speed limit started May 1st—there
will be no new warning signs. Drivers will be ex-
pected to know the new law, and traffic officials are
likely to be stricter in enforcing it.

The only signs on our highways will be those to
signal railway crossings and dangerous curves. On
the latter, there will be signals of the rate of travel
which road engineers consider safe on that particular
part of the road. Some of them will signal 10 or
15 miles an hour, some 20 and others, perhaps 30.

The law does not affect the speed limits in
Towns and Cities nor lower speed limits for trucks.

First offenders are liable to a fine of not less
than \$15.00 and not more than \$50.00, or imprison-
ment of not more than 10 days or both. Second
offenders face a minimum fine of \$25.00 and a maxi-
mum of \$100.00.

SASKATCHEWAN SIDE-LIGHTS

The R.C.M.P. took over the policing of the
town of **Melfort** on March 15th.

v v v

R.M. St. Peter is asking to be established as a
restricted area for the eradication of bovine tuber-
culosis.

v v v

R.M. Cymri will pay a bounty of \$1.00 for
both full grown wolves and wolf pups from May 1st
to October 1st.

MANITOBA MATTERS

May 31 to June 6 has been designated "Safety
Week" by proclamation of the Manitoba Govern-
ment.

v v v

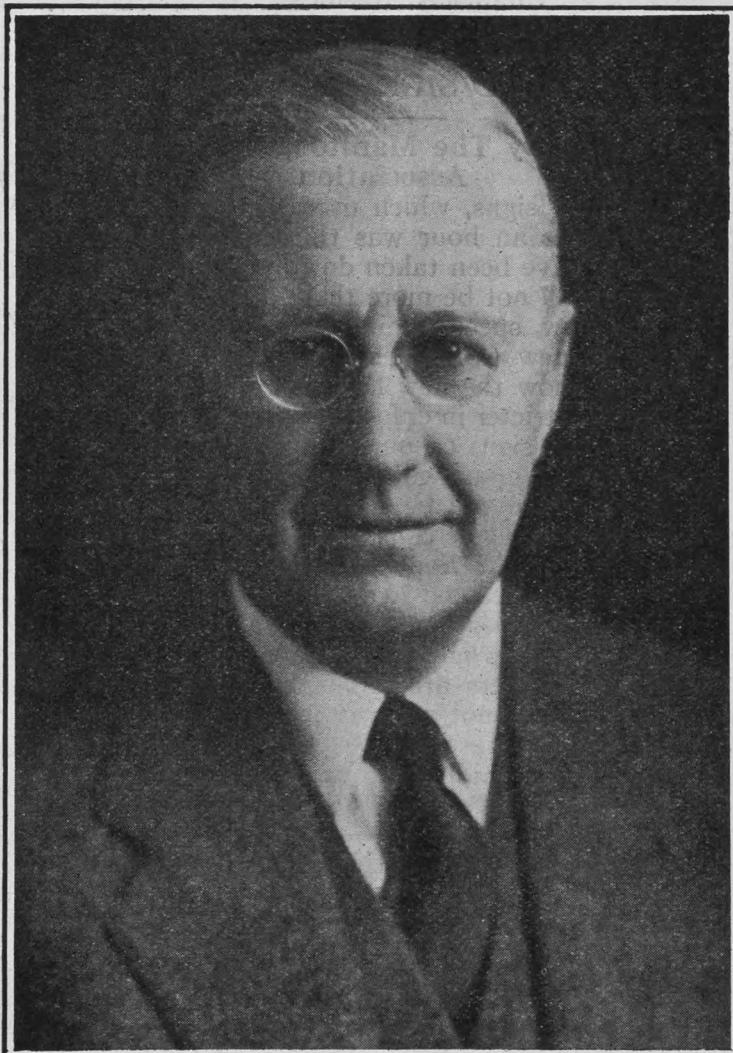
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wallace of Wawanesa
celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, January
20th. Mr. Wallace has served as municipal coun-
cillor and has been active in community enterprises.

v v v

Harry Sandison, former alderman of **Winnipeg**,
died May 1st at the age of eighty-four. Mr. Sandison
has an enduring monument in Winnipeg's lovely
Assiniboine Park for whose founding he was re-
sponsible. He served on the Parks Board for 14
years, as chairman for 3 of them. He was chairman
of the Carnegie Library Committee in charge of the
opening of the library in 1904.

Union of Alberta Municipalities

Thirty-Seventh Annual Convention, Calgary, June 25-26, 1942



WM. A. AUSTIN, ESQ.
President U.A.M.

—Cut courtesy Douglas Printing Co.

PRESIDENT'S PRE-CONVENTION MESSAGE

To all Cities, Towns and Villages of the Province of Alberta:

The Annual Convention of the Union of Alberta Municipalities was to have been held this year in the City of Lethbridge but, owing to war time conditions and the difficulties of transportation, it has, thanks to the loyal and unselfish co-operation of Lethbridge and, I feel sure, of the other municipalities in the South, been arranged to hold the Convention in the most available central point in the Province—the City of Calgary.

Mayor Andy Davison and his Council are rallying round, and have offered us the use of the City Hall for the Convention, which will be held on Thursday and Friday, 25th and 26th of June.

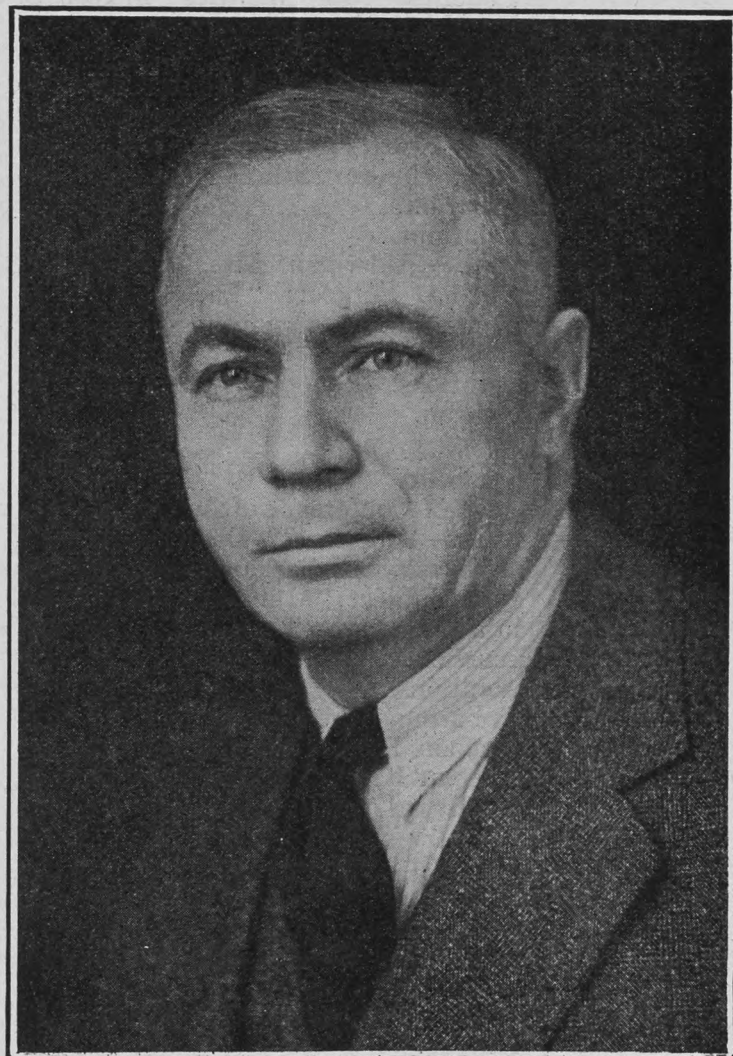
We all remember the royal hospitality and entertainment tendered to the Delegates by Calgary last year. This year we are expressing the desire that, owing to the vital necessity of conserving the

financial resources of the citizens for the prosecution of the war, the entertainment, which in normal times we appreciate so much, be dispensed with. So members, and would-be members, of which I hope there are many, we are going to work—a real business-war-time Convention, and I think we are going to get a kick out of it.

This being a part of the total war effort is no sinecure. Many of our peace-time problems are still with us, waiting to be solved. These must not be neglected. Our war-time problems crowd upon us, and a speedy solution is of vital importance to the safety and defence of the people. For the survival of our municipal governments, and for the welfare of the people they serve, we must have **large vision**. We must discuss, actively plan, and be prepared to meet the onslaught of the after-war reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Let us realize clearly that, in the final analysis, the responsibility for the winning of the war, and the winning of the peace, rests on the shoulders of

(Continued on page 117)



L. P. MINKLER, ESQ.
Secretary-Treasurer U.A.M.

—Cut courtesy Douglas Printing Co.

MUNICIPAL COURT CASES

Published From
WESTERN WEEKLY REPORTS

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of Calgary.



ALBERTA

SUPREME COURT APPELLATE DIVISION
Before Clarke, Lunney and Ewing, JJ A.

Koehn (Plaintiff) Respondent
v. **Montgomery Municipal District** (Defendant) Appellant

Municipal Districts—Maintenance of Bridge—Liability to Person Injured through Collapse of Bridge.

The defendant municipality was responsible for maintaining a highway within the district including a bridge. The bridge had been allowed to get into a state of decay and disrepair, which, however, was not apparent to travellers on the highway. The bridge collapsed under the weight of a heavy truck owned by the plaintiff which was being driven across. The plaintiff brought action against the defendant, alleging actionable non-repair of the bridge.

The evidence indicated that the bridge was intended for heavy traffic and that tractors, loads of grain and other heavy loads regularly passed over it.

Held per Bury, D.C.J. that the defendant was liable. It was under an obligation to maintain the road including the bridge in such a reasonable state of repair that those using it could pass to and fro safely, using reasonable care. This obligation extended only to traffic of a type which was customary on the road. In this case, however, the evidence showed that vehicles in the heavy weight class as the plaintiff's truck frequently used the bridge, so that there was an obligation to keep the bridge safe for vehicles of that weight. The failure of the defendant to discover and correct the decayed condition of the bridge must be imputed to a want of proper inspection by the defendant and hence to a breach of duty. Further, by allowing the bridge to remain in a condition in which it appeared to be safe but in reality was decayed and unsafe, the defendant had created a trap for the plaintiff and other travellers, and it was liable on that account also.

The defendant appealed. Appeal dismissed.
December 5th, 1941.

ALBERTA

SUPREME COURT APPELLATE DIVISION
Before Harvey, C.J.A., Clarke, Ford, Lunney and Ewing, JJ.A.

Edmonton (Plaintiff) Respondent
v. **W. W. Sales Limited** (Defendant) Appellant
Armstrong-Cosans Limited (Plaintiff) Respondent

v. **W. W. Sales Limited** (Defendant) Appellant
B. Sheldon's Limited (Plaintiff) Respondent
v. **W. W. Sales Limited** (Defendant) Appellant

Arkinstall (Plaintiff) Respondent
v. **W. W. Sales Limited** (Defendant) Appellant
Master and Servant—Fire Started by Servant Causing Damage—Liability of Employer—Nuisance.

The defendant's manager instructed an employee to clean out the basement of the defendant's store and place the rubbish in an ash can outside the premises. The employee did this and then, without any instructions in that regard, tried to burn the rubbish. The fire spread out of control and damaged the property of the plaintiffs. The trial Judge found as a fact that the employee was negligent in setting the fire ([1941] 2 W.W.R. 329).

Held that the defendant was liable for the damage caused by the fire. Its servant in setting the fire was acting within the scope of his employment, notwithstanding that he had received no instructions to set the fire. *Lockhart v. C.P.R.* (1941) S.C.R. 278, followed. It was also no defence that the servant's act amounted to a nuisance and was thus an illegal act; the defendant was nevertheless responsible for it since the act was in the course of the servant's employment.

January 29th, 1942.

U.A.M. CONVENTION

(Continued from page 116)

each and every citizen of our communities. It is the plain duty of the municipal authorities in each city, town and village, no matter how small the community is, to give strong courageous leadership, without which the citizen army is unavailing. Let us be adequately prepared to give that leadership.

On behalf of the Executive of the Union I extend to the Councils of each City, Town and Village of the Province, a sincerely earnest appeal and invitation to send delegates to the forthcoming Convention.

W. A. AUSTIN,
President,
Union of Alberta Municipalities.

v v v

SECRETARY'S BULLETIN

It has just been announced by the President, having in mind war time restrictions regarding transportation, that it has been found expedient to alter the place of meeting in convention this year, from Lethbridge to Calgary. It has been arranged to hold our gathering in City Hall, Calgary, on Thursday and Friday, June 25th and 26th, in the Council Chambers which are capable of accommodating 150 delegates. The change in our plans has been decided upon after consultation with Lethbridge's representative, Ald. Jardine, who concurs in the move, having regard to all the circumstances. It is the desire of the President that all entertainment on the part of the City of Calgary be dispensed with during our meet.

L. P. MINKLER,
Secretary-Treasurer.

To Councils—

Have you renewed your subscription
to The Western Municipal News for 1942?

Address by Hon. A. T. Proctor, Minister of Highways

Before the Thirty-Seventh Annual Convention of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Held in Saskatoon on March 4th, 5th and 6th, 1942.

It is a great pleasure to me to be with you today. While I have met by far the greater majority of you during the period that I have been Minister of Highways in the present Government, this is the first occasion on which I have addressed a general meeting of your Association.

The relationship between the Department of Highways and your Association has always, I think, been one of the best and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing to you the thanks and appreciation not only of myself but of all those associated with me in the Department, for the co-operation and friendly assistance that has always been extended to the Department not only by your Association but by the individual councils of the rural municipalities.

I would like also to take this opportunity of acknowledging the debt which my Department and the people of Saskatchewan owe to your Association and to the municipal officials, reeves and councillors of the Province of Saskatchewan for the unselfish and careful work which they have done in connection with their municipal duties. No body of public officials has more surely earned the thanks of the public of the Province of Saskatchewan than the body I am now addressing.

There has always been close co-operation between the Department of Highways and the Rural Municipal Association and Rural Municipal Councils. Neither the Department of Highways nor the Rural Councils can properly fulfil their duties without such co-operation, for a large part of the work of both is of a common nature and I would like to assure you that the services of the Department are always available to you and that so long as I am head of the Department it will be my desire to have even closer co-operation to our mutual benefit.

Checkerboard Survey and System

Today I propose to deal very shortly with the problem of Highways and one or two matters of mutual interest to your membership and to the Department. In order that we may start with a clear understanding of the Highway situation in the Province, may I remind you that the Province of Saskatchewan is surveyed under what is known as the checkerboard system. That is, the Province is divided into sections one mile square and a road allowance of 66 feet is provided between the sections on the east and west sides and between every two sections on the north and south sides except for a small portion of the eastern and southern part of the Province where a road allowance of 99 feet surrounds every section.

The total mileage of road allowance in the Province of Saskatchewan is 225,000 miles. Of this mileage the Department of Highways has assumed complete control and responsibility for 8040 miles taken over as Provincial Highways and approximately

1000 miles of secondary Highway System. Of the balance about 25,000 miles are covered by what is known as the market road system and the remainder is ordinary municipal road.

It has been the aim of the Department in laying out the Provincial highways, to see that no considerable portion of the Province shall be more than a few miles from a provincial highway.

An examination of the Provincial system will show that the network of provincial highways covers the Province very fully and that it is planned on a roughly checkerboard system somewhat similar to the survey.

The market road system has been planned so as to link up the main highway system and satisfy the requirements of commercial needs. One may describe the highway system in the Province of Saskatchewan as a fourfold system.

A Fourfold System

First we have the Provincial Highway developed to take care of the long distance, commercial, passenger and tourist needs of the Province.

Feeding into these trunk highways is the secondary system of highways, largely a feeder system for the main highway and taking care of the shorter distance traffic.

Connected with this system of Provincial highway is a comprehensive system of main market roads developed not only to enable groups of producers to deliver their primary products at the small local centres but also to satisfy commercial needs.

Ancillary to the market road system is a municipal road system which serves the individual producer.

The larger bridges and ferries over the rivers, creeks and coulees are the charge of the Provincial Department of Highways. In this plan of Highway development municipal councils and the Department of Highways each have independent and heavy responsibility but if the full benefit of expenditure and work of both are to be received we must co-operate one with the other.

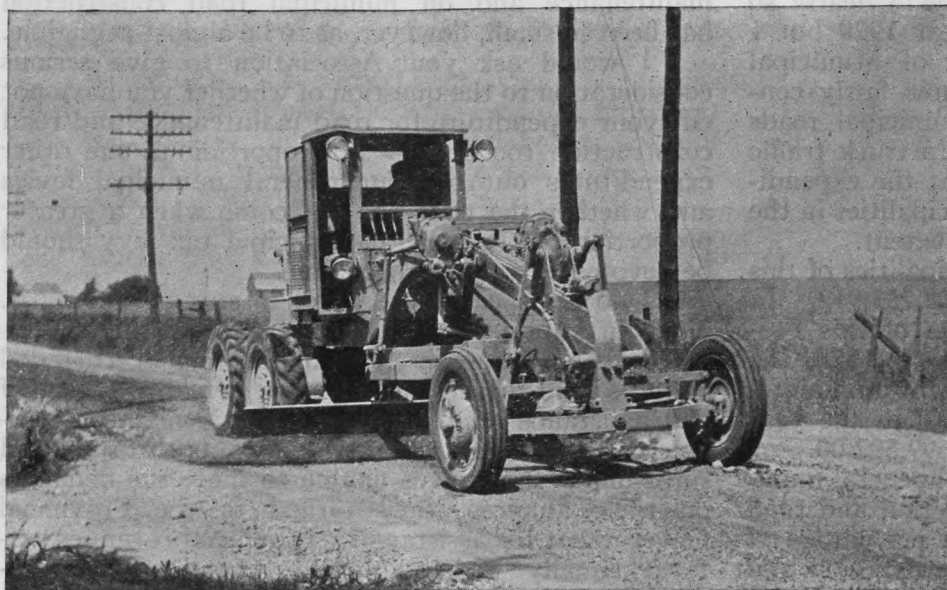
May I point out to you that under the Provincial Highway System of the Province of Saskatchewan, the Provincial Department of Highways has taken over more mileage of road allowance than the combined mileage of the Provincial Highway systems of our two sister provinces, Alberta and Manitoba.

Substantial progress has been made in the building of the Provincial system but much remains to be done. Until the building of the Provincial system is more nearly completed the amount which the Province has available for grants to market and municipal roads must necessarily be curtailed.

At the present time the progress made on our Provincial Highway system is in round figures as follows:

7150 miles have been graded to standard. Of

FOR ALL-YEAR, ALL-PURPOSE WORK



*Shown above is an Adams No. 412 Motor Grader, Diesel powered.
Adams Motors are available in six different models to fill
every road building and maintenance need.*

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ADAMS

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this amount 4230 miles have been gravelled. 155 miles have been paved. 2700 miles have been constructed to standard but not surfaced and 850 miles remain to be graded.

You will see that with 850 miles of standard grade to build, over 3500 miles of gravel surfacing to do and at least 700 miles of paving to construct, the Provincial Department of Highways has a full size job on its hands apart altogether from assistance to rural municipalities on their market roads and municipal roads.

This is only part of the picture from the point of view of the Provincial Department of Highways, however, I stated sometime ago that the Provincial Department of Highways had assumed responsibility for the **larger bridges and ferries**. Altogether we have constructed in the Province over 3150 bridges, ranging in type from the small pile bridge costing approximately \$750 up through the larger timber bridges to the small steel and concrete bridges and on to the gigantic bridges over the Saskatchewan and Battle Rivers costing in the neighbourhood of \$450,000.00 each.

Few members of Southern Municipal Councils have any knowledge of **the ferry system** in the Province for which the Provincial Department of Highways is responsible. Yet this system costs us \$85,000 a year to maintain and last year carried over the rivers of Saskatchewan on its 43 ferries, nearly one million units, passengers, vehicles and animals.

But this does not complete the picture. Roads of the highest type of construction in the Province not properly maintained will in two or three years

deteriorate so that they become utterly useless as Provincial Highways. Contrary to the generally accepted opinion, the better the type of highway the more it costs to maintain it.

The **cost of maintenance** for Provincial Highways, bridges and ferries in the Province of Saskatchewan has now reached approximately the sum of \$1,500,000 per annum. As we do further gravelling and paving this annual cost will increase. A dirt highway can be satisfactorily maintained at an annual cost of about \$85.00 per mile. The cost of maintaining a gravelled highway rises to \$125.00 per mile and the cost of maintaining a paved highway is over \$450.00 a mile.

I have given you this short summary of what may be called the primary responsibility of the Provincial Department of Highways in order that you may have some understanding of the size of the problem which faces our Department, not only in its first and primary responsibility, the provincial system of highways, but also in fulfilling what I regard as an equal duty in assisting rural municipalities in constructing their main market and municipal roads.

In my judgment any highway policy to be satisfactory to the people of Saskatchewan must make provision not only for the completion of what I have called the Provincial Highway system with its attendant bridges and ferries, but must also make provision for assistance to the municipalities in building large bridges that they are unable to construct themselves and in building market roads.

The market and municipal roads, however, must continue to be, in the main, a local municipal responsibility.

R.M.'s Spending Less

More and more you gentlemen of the municipal councils contend that **increased truck traffic** has destroyed your municipal roads. This is only partially true. It is true that the municipal roads in the year 1941 were not comparatively in nearly so good a shape as they were in the year 1929 but I have obtained from the Department of Municipal Affairs figures that would seem to show fairly conclusively that the deterioration in municipal roads is only in a small part due to the extra truck traffic but is also largely due to the fact that the expenditure on municipal roads by rural municipalities in the Province has decreased to an alarming extent.

In the year 1929, the rural municipalities of this Province spent in new construction \$2,757,912. In the year 1940, the rural municipalities of this Province spent only \$234,900. In the year 1929, the rural municipalities of this Province spent on maintenance on their roads \$2,455,355.00 and in the year 1940, they spent on maintenance \$1,699,592.00.

In the year 1929, 80% of the total general municipal levy was spent on road construction and road maintenance. In the year 1940, the percentage of the municipal levy spent on road construction and maintenance had dropped to 37%. These are figures that must cause all those interested in highway work grave concern.

For instance, in the year 1929, one municipality whose figures I have before me spent \$1,223.22 on maintenance and \$14,892.45 on construction but in the year 1940, the same municipality spent \$1,223.85 on maintenance and nothing on construction. Other municipalities show a similar state of affairs.

I realize, gentlemen, that this situation is not altogether the fault of the rural municipal councils. We, in the Province of Saskatchewan, have been visited, since 1929, with drought conditions, with plagues of grasshoppers, rust and hail and these, with the impact of the economic conditions in the whole of the Province, have reduced the revenue of our people to a great deal less than it was in 1930.

The price received for our wheat by our farmers is in many areas less than the cost of production. Even in our best areas, the return is little more than the cost of production. Large numbers of our people have been forced to accept relief. Few have been able to meet their obligations.

The road development in the Province is directly influenced by the return to our farmers for their wheat and expenditures have been cut down in the places where it was easiest to make the cut, namely in the municipal road expenditure for construction and maintenance.

Since 1939, however, there has been a substantial improvement in the economic situation of our farmers. I quote from the brief submitted by the Wheat Pool to the Federal Government by the recent delegation which went to Ottawa on behalf of the Western Farmers of Canada. During the period 1926 to 1929, the yearly cash farm income for the three prairie provinces averaged \$530,000,000.00. As a result of the drastic fall in farm prices, cash income declined to \$161,000,000.00 in 1932. In recent years there has been some improvement. For the year ended July 31st, 1939, total cash income from the sale of all farm products in Western Canada amounted to \$276,680,000.00. By 1940 this had increased to \$369,750,000.00 while the peak was reached for the crop year

ended July 31st, 1941, when total cash income from the sale of all farm products amounted to \$410,222,000.00. There has been a substantial improvement in conditions as these figures show.

The increase in expenditure on municipal road maintenance and on municipal road construction has been so small, however, as to be almost negligible.

I would ask your Association to give serious consideration to the question of whether you have not cut your expenditure for road maintenance and road construction too heavily in proportion to the other expenditures out of your general municipal levies and whether the time has not come when a greater proportion of the general municipal tax levy should be devoted to a road programme.

I do not speak these words in any critical spirit. No man knows better than myself what the municipalities have had to suffer in the way of curtailed finances, and in the way of extra demands for relief and assistance on the finances that remained available to them. As municipal bodies, both urban and rural found themselves unable to meet the demands on their finances, they turned to the Provincial Government for assistance. Provincial revenues suffered equally with municipal revenue. The Provincial Government in its turn had to apply to the Federal Government for assistance. With the improvement in economic conditions particularly since 1939, the Federal Government has decreased its contribution to the Provincial finances.

Re Grants

Last year the Provincial Department of Highways was able to give a small amount by way of grants to some of the hardest hit of our municipalities. While the amount available for this purpose was not as much as I would have liked to see, and I fear it will not be as much this year as I would like, we intend to continue that policy in the coming year. The amount available for bridges and for road grants for the coming year will not be large.

The policy that the Department intends to follow in connection with the expenditure of whatever amount is made available to us for this purpose is not sufficient to allow a general grant to every municipality and indeed it would not be proper to distribute any amount that may be available equally among the municipalities. Some municipalities are in much better financial shape than others. Some have, through most of the years from 1929 on, harvested a considerable amount of crop. Others have harvested nothing. In some municipalities there are rivers and creeks and physical and geographical conditions which make the problem of road building one of extreme difficulty. In other municipalities the configuration of the country is such that satisfactory market and municipal roads can be constructed at a minimum cost. Some municipalities are old established municipalities which through the good years were able to build up within their boundaries a fairly complete road system, others newly formed and with more difficult conditions to contend with were able to do little or nothing on their system.

All these conditions must be given their due weight in the appropriation of any moneys that may be available for municipal grants for the building of roads and bridges.

I think too that, speaking generally, it should be an essential condition that the municipalities asking for road grants should be prepared to spend

moneys of their own as a condition of receiving a grant. The amount they would be required to spend will, of course, vary with the conditions of which I have spoken before.

The Department hopes, however, to be able to assist to a limited extent with your more difficult road problems.

Future Policy

I would like to say something to you of the future policy of the Department. At the time of Confederation, the construction of a railroad across Canada joining the Atlantic with the Pacific was agreed upon to be essential to the welding of our people into a unified Dominion. Since Confederation, the transport picture has been completely changed by the development of the motor car, the bus and the truck. More and more, our people have become a nation living on wheels and the tie which the Fathers of Confederation saw in the twin silver lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway as joining our people together, is no longer sufficient for that purpose.

Every argument that was advanced at Confederation for the construction of the C.P.R., every argument that was advanced for the construction of the C.N.R., applies with even greater force to the construction of a **paved highway from Halifax to Vancouver** across the western provinces. It is only by providing highways which will enable the people of the east and the people of the west to visit together and to know and understand each other, that the problem of the wheat growing western farmer and the problem of the cattle raising, the hog feeding and cheese making farmer of Ontario can be brought together so that a mutual understanding may be arrived at and a completely unified Canada can be created.

Equal necessity exists in the Province of Saskatchewan for the construction of a **paved highway from the boundary of the United States to the National Park at Prince Albert and to the great northland of Saskatchewan.** The present conflict has made it clear that it is essential to the welfare of civilization that the great English speaking peoples of the world must be bound more closely together by every possible means, if our ideals of democracy, liberty and justice are to continue to exist. No more effective method of bringing about such an understanding and to accomplish such a result can be found than in the encouragement of an interchange of visits not only between the people of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada but between the people of the United States and Canada. In this way we may develop a more intimate contact and a better understanding of each other's problems.

Diversification of Provincial Economy

Up to the present period the Province of Saskatchewan has been the great wheat producing area of Canada. Wheat is the lifeblood of Saskatchewan and highway development in the Province has been devoted to the service of those areas suitable to the production of wheat and commercial centres dependent on wheat for their welfare and growth. The experience of the past ten years has convinced us that it is essential that the economy of our Province must be diversified.

There lies, across the whole northern part of the Province of Saskatchewan, one of the largest areas of the pre-cambrian shield in any province of the



and with it will come, more PEDLAR'S CULVERTS and Road-Building Materials

As manufacturers of Pedlar's Culverts, our production for 1942, in common with all products using steel, will be subject to restrictions arising from the war.

Under present conditions the difficulty in obtaining raw materials stands in the way of prompt delivery to our customers.

That is the situation now. Meanwhile, we shall appreciate any enquiries from municipal authorities in reference to Pedlar's Arch-Abutment Culverts, Standard Round Culverts and Asbestos Bonded Paved Invert Pipe.



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Dominion. Geologists report that in this area we may expect to find mineral deposits of great value. Already at Flin Flon, about the 54th parallel, there has been developed one of the largest mines in Canada and at Goldfields, 200 miles further north, a mine which, while low in grade, has immense ore reserves. Still further north mines of great richness have been discovered.

There lies in this area and the adjoining area in Alberta a great deposit of tar sands estimated to contain gasoline sufficient to supply world needs for fifty years at the present rate of consumption.

The lakes of the north teem with fish and the forests of the north are a potential source of great wealth.

It is only by a far-sighted and fully rounded out scheme of road development in our Province that all these resources may take part in the future development and diversification of our economy.

I have indicated to you the Provincial responsibility as I see it. We must maintain, develop and complete the highway system pushing into these new areas. We must make available to the people of the older Provinces to the East and West and to the great neighbour to the south all those great natural resources which will attract the tourist and the visitor from the farthest corners of our continent. All these things I say must be done but we cannot and must not forget that here in the Province of Saskatchewan the pioneers entered upon raw and unbroken prairie and gave their lives to the development of the country we have now. They must be able to conveniently transport the products of the farm,

(Continued on page 134)

Manitoba Municipal Secretary-Treasurers' Association

President - ROBERT FAGEN,
Dauphin Town
Vice-President - V. E. FOX, R.M. Macdonald
Secretary-Treasurer H.S. RUNGAY, R.M. Harrison

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J. D. GOOSSEN, R. M. Hanover
E. SMITH, R.M. South Cyprus

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THIS PAGE TO H. S. RUNGAY, NEWDALE

Statutes

Copies of the 1940 Manitoba Statutes have been sent out by the Provincial Government to the municipal offices and the thanks from our Association are due the Department for these three volumes.

Your correspondent feels sure that the Municipal Commissioner had a lot to do with this gift, which is of much value in our work, and so "Thank you, Mr. Morton."—H.S.R.

v v v

Municipal Health

We hear a great deal nowadays regarding the health of our people, and a number of plans for state hospitalization and insurance are in the making. Some are being considered as part of the post-war programme, including municipal physicians for major operative work.

This would mean zoning the Province and, in the various centres, employing a first class surgeon who could perform any major operations.

In this respect it is interesting to note that the Government of Ontario has recently approved a Bill which will give St. Joseph's Island the taxing power to subsidize a municipal health service including medical and minor surgical care for the people of the Island.—H.S.R.

v v v

School Grants

Have you read the May issue of the Manitoba School Journal? If you have not, get a copy from either your school secretary or school teacher, and read the long article on "Equalization Grants for Weak School Districts" by Hon. Ivan Schultz, Minister of Education. It gives a good picture of the present system of school finance and in detail it gives the basic principle of the new plans.

You will find clear cut examples as to how the new plan will affect the finances of the weaker school districts, and much information which you will find of value to yourselves as municipal officials.—H.S.R.

v v v

Wheat Reduction

As I told you on last month's "Page," we met the officials of the Federal Department of Agriculture and Treasury Branch in Regina on April 14th, together with representatives from the Alberta and Saskatchewan Secretaries' Associations and the Secretary of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. You will have, and are now working with, the results of our deliberations, and we hope that you will be better satisfied with the arrangements made on your behalf. The Honourable Mr. J. G. Gardiner was with us when we made our representations, and gave us a cordial hearing. While we did

not get all we asked for, it is the considered opinion of the delegates that the remuneration agreed upon is at least fair.

Mr. E. L. Gray, Director of Wheat Acreage Reduction, gave us a very able resume of the work done by his department. Starting from scratch, with an inexperienced staff, last spring, there is no wonder he ran into so many difficulties. He told us that, to date, his department had paid out over 29 million in W.A.R. bonus payments and that, including the P.F.A.A. and the P.F.I., it would run into 60 million for the three Provinces. He told us a rather remarkable thing, and that was that there are thousands of cheques returned to Regina, undelivered for various reasons, and that all these must be re-checked to find out why. There is no need to go into the arrangements agreed upon, since by this time you will have the full instructions, and I hope everything is running smoothly. We were royally entertained by the Saskatchewan delegates during our short stay in their capital city, and hope that some day we may be able to return the compliment in Manitoba's fair city.—H.S.R.

v v v

Annual Meeting

Your Executive, or rather what is left of it, together with Councillor Hugh Macintyre and Mr. Clive McLeod, K.C. of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, met in Winnipeg on Monday, May 4th, to discuss the programme for the Annual Meeting. Following a lengthy discussion of the present situation regarding restricted transportation, and in view of the changed conditions, it was decided to forego our Annual Meeting in June, and to hold it immediately preceding the Union Convention.

It was agreed that many of our people attend the main convention every year, and it was felt that we could make the one trip do for both conventions. We will meet on the Monday evening of the week set for the Union meeting and continue through Tuesday, then join the Union meeting. An effort will be made to get the Union to start their Convention on Wednesday instead of the usual Tuesday start. If this cannot be done, then we will try to get ours over as soon as possible on the Tuesday, to enable our fellows to take part in the main meeting.

The programme has been arranged, but full details will not be published, until we get the result of the Union Executive's re-action to our request for a change of their date. Your Executive realize that they have taken a drastic step, without the authority of a general meeting, but the considered opinion of all present was that the means of transportation would become progressively worse as

(Continued on page 135)

THE SASKATCHEWAN RURAL MUNICIPAL OFFICE PAGE

F.W. POHLMANN, Shaunavon
CHAIRMAN

ERIC McWEAN, Lipton
VICE-CHAIRMAN

ROY E. DAVIS, Mazenod
SECRETARY-TREASURER

A Page edited by the Executive of the Associated
Committee of Rural Secretary-Treasurers for the
assistance and guidance of Councils and Secretaries

—EXECUTIVE—
DIV. 1—G. E. CRIPPS
WOLSELEY
DIV. 2—R. H. CARTER
ROULEAU
DIV. 3—E. W. GRAINGER
HODGEVILLE
DIV. 4—G. F. GILLESPIE
WADENA
DIV. 5—D. LEPAGE
VONDA
DIV. 6—FRED N. LONSDALE
MARSHALL

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THIS PAGE TO F. W. POHLMANN, SHAUNAVON

WHEAT ACREAGE REDUCTION, 1942

The Wheat Acreage Reduction Plan of 1941 has been the most lively topic of discussion wherever a group of municipal men have met during the past six or eight months. The discussion was not always an enlightened one and in most cases very little, if any, consideration was given to the facts that this plan was an entirely new one and so must of necessity encounter many unforeseen difficulties; that the plan was put into effect at a time when proper office space was a thing that did not exist (and you know that an overcrowded office does not make for the greatest efficiency in any undertaking); that a new staff had to be trained, and capable persons with previous office experience were not easily obtained due to the great numbers which had been and were daily being taken into the various necessary activities related to the war effort as well as the numbers which were joining the different branches of the Active Service Forces and the Auxiliaries.

We wish to give due credit to the whole Bonus Office staff, from Director E. L. Gray down to the humblest clerk, for the tremendous effort put into this work and the unfailing courtesy with which we were always received when we called upon them to complain about the delay in making payments or to find out why the amounts received in many cases were so much smaller than had been expected. In this expression of appreciation we would also include the members of the staff of the Treasury Branch whose work was in many cases increased and complicated by errors of our own making.

Rural municipal officials, and particularly Secretary-Treasurers, have been in close contact with the operations of this bonus plan for the year 1941 and are conversant with most of the difficulties encountered. The year's work has shown quite plainly that these complications must be ironed out and greater precaution must be taken to eliminate many of the common errors which increased the work and delayed the payments, if the 1942 plan is to function as efficiently as possible. It was for this express purpose that Mr. J. J. McGurran, Secretary of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, arranged for a meeting of Municipal Association, Bonus Office and Treasury Branch officials in Regina on April 14th, a date which made it possible for the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Federal Minister of Agriculture, to be present at the meeting for a short time.

The meeting occupied a full day and during that time a full and frank discussion of those matters which had caused undue delay and unnecessary work was carried on. The outstanding feature of the meeting was that, while discussion was at all times quite frank and direct, it was carried on in a spirit of constructive criticism and suggestion, showing a desire

on the part of all present to obtain the greatest benefit possible from a free and unhampered exchange of opinions with no thought except to insure as far as possible a complete understanding of the difficulties encountered and to strive to eradicate them.

In addition to the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, who was present for a short time, the meeting was attended by E. L. Gray, Director; R. D. McGregor, Superintendent for Saskatchewan; S. Sinclair and Mr. Hawker of the Bonus Office; Mr. T. E. Phillips, Treasury Officer; F. Handley and Mr. Smythe of the Treasury Branch. Municipal representatives from Alberta were D. Roberts, Secretary of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts; R. F. Lawrence, President and J. Redmond, Secretary of the Alberta Association of Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers. Representatives of the Manitoba Municipalities were J. Spalding, Secretary, Union of Manitoba Municipalities and H. S. Rungay, Secretary, Manitoba Municipal Secretary-Treasurers Association. Saskatchewan was represented by J. J. McGurran, Secretary, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities; F. W. Pohlmann, Chairman, and R. E. Davis, Secretary of the Associated Committee of Saskatchewan Rural Municipal Secretary-Treasurers. F. W. Pohlmann was chosen to preside as chairman of the meeting with R. E. Davis acting in the capacity of Secretary.

Complications which came to light most often resulted from; (a) Changes in the regulations not only after they had been given wide publicity but even after the work was partially completed. (b) Officials of the Bonus Office did not always agree on the interpretation of the regulations. (c) Information was released through the Press and over the Radio and people advised to get in touch with the municipal office before the information or necessary forms were supplied to the Secretary.

Some of the most common errors and discrepancies which caused a great deal of extra work and correspondence and resulted in delays in making payments were; (a) Improper land descriptions which resulted in two or more applicants claiming the same land. (b) Failure to show all the land farmed. (c) Discrepancy in acreage shown on the W.A.R. and the P.F.A.A. reports. (d) Failure to give sufficient information regarding the interests of landlords.

It is of course impossible to record all the matters which came in for discussion as having caused difficulty in either the municipal or the Government offices, as it is likewise impossible to attempt to give a full report of the discussion itself. The discussion can, however, be summed up by saying that the following conclusions can be drawn from the day's deliberations:

(1) One report form should be drafted to meet the requirements of both the W.A.R. and P.F.A.A.

offices. If both these offices require a copy then two copies could be sent in and one retained in the local office.

(2) Acreages should preferably be shown for each quarter section or for each parcel if smaller than a quarter section. Where this is impossible acreages should at least be broken down to coincide with the interests of landlords.

(3) All acreage reports and claims for payment for either bonus should be made through a local office and a copy of all such reports and claims should be kept on file in that office, and that the Municipal Office is the proper place for doing this.

(4) That the municipal secretary is the proper person to be appointed to do this work and he should accept responsibility for seeing that all reports are properly made.

(5) If the secretary cannot or is not permitted to accept this appointment then some other person should be appointed to do this work.

(6) That payment for the work should be made by the Department of Agriculture direct to the person appointed to do the work.

(7) That irrespective of the provisions of the Wheat Acreage Reduction Act 1942, it is the wish of the Officials of the Bonus Office that every farmer make a preliminary application.

A resolution was passed requesting the Federal Department of Agriculture to send a letter to every municipality in the three prairie provinces asking the permission of the Council to appoint the Secretary to do this work and to receive payment therefor from the Department, and suggesting that a form of resolution authorizing this be sent with the letter.

A second resolution was passed suggesting that the rate of remuneration for this work be 25 cents per approved document and that "approved documents" be (a) Application forms, including both farmer and landlord forms; (b) sworn claims; (c) certificates of acreage and verification reports, when completed at the request of the Department.—F.W.P.

DIVISION SIX SECRETARIES MEET

A meeting of the Division Six Secretaries was held in the Public Library Auditorium at North Battleford on Saturday, April 25th.

Present: 14 secretaries representing 14 municipalities, also Mr. E. L. Gray of the Wheat Acreage Reduction Branch; Mr. Prince, Registrar of the Battleford Land Titles Office; Mr. A. J. Bater, Director for Division Six of the R.M. Association and a number of reeves and councillors representing various municipalities. A. Sallows, Municipal Solicitor, was also present.

F. A. Lonsdale and C. G. Bryden, were named as Chairman and Secretary, respectively, of the meeting.

In opening the meeting, Mr. Lonsdale expressed regret that the rain had cut down the attendance to a considerable extent and had prevented Mr. Jacobs, who had expected to be present, from attending. Mr. Lonsdale at the same time expressed his gratification in the fact that Mr. Gray had been able to come and suggested that all questions to Mr. Gray should be written so that a record of the questions and answers might be made for the benefit of those who could not attend. (This suggestion was not followed and all questions were simply asked and answered from the floor of the meeting.)

Mr. Gray's Talk

Mr. Gray gave a very interesting talk. He stated that the objects of the Wheat Acreage Reduction Plan were to hold wheat production at the same level and at the same time encourage increased production of feed and oil grains. He gave figures of the total sums now paid out to Saskatchewan farmers under the 1941 programme of the W.A.R., P.F.A., and P.F.I. branches, and stated that every effort was being made to clean up the remainder of unsettled claims with as little delay as possible. He also gave detailed figures of the numbers of settled and unsettled claims in various municipalities and stated that it had worked out to an approximate average of six bad claims per municipality which had to be held up for various reasons.

Mr. Gray also explained the 1942 plan in some detail, stressing particularly the fact that although the Act did not require preliminary applications from farmers who had made claims in 1941 (unless there was some change in their farming units), the Board would much prefer to have new applications from all farmers, and the assistance of the secretaries in making this fact known and in getting as many applications as possible was earnestly solicited.

Arising out of this discussion a Resolution was passed to the effect that the Head Office of the Wheat Acreage Reduction Branch should take immediate steps to notify the farmers of their wishes in this connection, so that the Secretaries might have some authoritative backing for their efforts to secure applications. A large number of questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Prince, Registrar of the Battleford Land Titles Office, then addressed the meeting on the subject of Tax Enforcement Procedure. This was a most interesting and comprehensive outline of title application procedure, which was particularly appropriate in view of the fact that many secretaries are now involved in this work. Mr. Lonsdale stated that copies of Mr. Prince's address would be distributed to the secretaries in Division Six for their future guidance. Hearty votes of thanks were extended to Mr. Gray and Mr. Prince.

Mr. Lonsdale then addressed the meeting briefly in his capacity of Director of Division Six. Mr. Lonsdale made an earnest appeal for membership, pointing out that although Division Six had the highest membership of the divisions, there were still ten in this division who had failed to pay their membership fee last year. Mr. Lonsdale urged that fees should be paid well in advance of the Convention so that the members of the registration committee would not have to lose all the benefits of the Convention themselves working at the Registration desk.

The speaker also touched upon a number of matters of interest to the Secretaries such as Christmas Seal Campaign (Division Six had again retained the Pohlmann Cup), Financial Statement of the Association, Superannuation and the date and programme of our 1942 Convention.

Mr. Bater, Director for Division Six of the S.A.R.M., came in at this point, and extended a pleasant and friendly greeting to the delegates present on behalf of the parent Association.

There was further general discussion of various municipal matters.

(The News is indebted to Mr. Lonsdale for the above copy of the Minutes of the meeting.)

Manitoba Matters.

VIRDEN AND WALLACE SHARE NEW MUNICIPAL OFFICES

(from Virden Empire-Advance)

The new municipal offices and council chamber to serve the councils of Wallace and Virden, as well as the general public, are now occupied by the secretary-treasurer, Edward Anderson, and his staff. The new offices are on the ground floor of the municipal building, eliminating the necessity of climbing stairs to transact municipal business. This will be regarded as a convenience and be appreciated, especially by older people.

The council chamber is large, bright and comfortable. There is now plenty of room for deputations who have problems or suggestions to submit to municipal legislators and administrators. The walls are decorated with photos of members of previous councils, trophies won by Wallace Council, and other interesting pictures associated with the development and progress of this town and community.

The offices are well laid out for carrying on the business of the two municipalities, with an abundance of light, plenty of desk room and adequate room for the public.

New Vault

While the whole change will meet with approval, the most essential thing gained by the move is adequate and safe storage for public records. For years it has been known that the vault used in the old offices was unsafe if a fire should destroy the building and that, so far as providing for safe keeping of records, we have been depending on luck. For various reasons, chiefly financial, remedying the vault situation has been deferred from year to year, until the council of 1941 took the matter up in earnest, with the result that adequate and safe storage is now provided for.

Contractor T. Nelson was in charge of construction and from all appearances has done a good job. Sure, the change cost some money; but it is money well spent and will be approved by anyone who understands the need for the change.

J. F. Anderson, Ashern, has been appointed Administrator **R.M. Woodlea**.

Joseph C. Sicotte of Fraserwood has been appointed receiver of the disorganized **R.M. of Kreuzburg**.

H. J. Rorke has been appointed Administrator **R.M. Lawrence** succeeding G. E. Catley, who resigned.

Tax rate of the town of **Selkirk** has been lowered 2.4 mills for 1942. This has been made possible by a reduction in the levy for debenture and general purposes.

A community pasture will be established north of **Poplar Point** under the P.F.R. Act. The area will include approximately 30,000 acres of stony soil suited for grass growing and pasturage.

The city council of **Portage la Prairie** decided, at a meeting late in April, to postpone consideration of changing from city police to law enforcement by the R.C.M.P.

Authur Page Jeffrey, who served 6 years on the city council of **Brandon** and on the hospital board for many terms, passed away late in April at the age of seventy-six.

Dr. William Turnbull has been appointed temporary director of the new division of medical care to be set up under **Winnipeg's** city health department. The new division is to supervise the admission of patients for free hospitalization.

Winnipeg is experiencing a serious housing shortage and the old relief building on Elgin Avenue is being utilized to help solve the problem. The building will be made into suites. **St. Boniface** also has a housing problem owing to an influx of war workers.

The town of **Russell** bought a \$10,000 Victory Loan bond.

The mill rate is 3 mills less than for 1941, having been set for 1942 at 30 mills.

The town is free of debenture indebtedness, final payment having been made last December.

Boards have been set up recently to administer the municipal health districts of **St. James-St. Vital** (joint district), **St. Boniface and Brandon**. These districts operate under the provincial department of health and public welfare. The Boards are appointed partly by the Minister and partly by the local councils.

James A. Smart, former mayor and alderman of **Brandon**, died in Montreal on May 3rd, in his 84th year, after being in ill health for several years. He was Minister of Public Works for Manitoba in 1886 and later, Provincial Secretary. From 1897 to 1904 he was Deputy Minister of the Interior for the Federal Government and in 1902 he served as Administrator of the Yukon.

In Texas they are trapping deer with mistletoe, according to the Calgary Herald. But in ye olden days, around the Christmas Season, it was a **dear** they trapped with mistletoe.

FOR SALE

PORTABLE CHEMICAL ON WHEELS, ETC.

Two 30-Gallon Chemicals for Fire Protection, suitable for mounting on truck; and one 40-Gallon Portable Chemical on wheels; all in good condition. For further particulars and inspection apply to

CHIEF OF FIRE DEPARTMENT,
Berry Street, Municipality of St. James

ENLARGED MUNICIPAL UNITS DISCUSSED

Report of Meeting held in South Edmonton Library on Saturday, April 11th, 1942.

Present:

R. E. Ansley, M.L.A., for Leduc.

F. M. Baker, M.L.A., for Clover Bar.

Dave Roberts, Sec., Alberta Association of Municipal Districts.

The following Municipal Districts were represented:

Clover Bar—Sec., Reeve and two councillors.

Blackmud—Sec., and one councillor.

Sturgeon—Sec., and Reeve.

Liberty—Sec., Reeve and five councillors.

Unity—Reeve.

Strathcona—Sec., Reeve and one councillor.

Cornhill—Reeve and Deputy Reeve.

No representatives from M.D's. Ray and Stony Plain.

J. B. Ritchie was appointed as chairman of the meeting.

The chairman called upon **R. E. Ansley, M.L.A.**, to speak. Mr. Ansley referred to a pamphlet issued by the Department of Municipal Affairs in 1941, dealing with the matter of the enlarged M.D. Units. In his constituency, M.D. Pioneer is in favor; M.D. Liberty is divided and M.D. Strathcona had not been ascertained. The Minister had stated the possibility of uniting Liberty, Blackmud and Pioneer in a division. His constituency took in all of Liberty, Pioneer, Blackmud and part of Strathcona. He invited this meeting to make suggestions for the Department to consider in the matter of a new set-up. He considered that our duty was to help pioneer districts to build roads. He believed that large units had much argument in their favor but the same should not be made too large. There are no more to be set up this year. He further stated that the calling of this meeting was very opportune.

T. Lueders enquired if it was definite that the Government will go ahead with this scheme. Answer: The intention is definite but the speaker did not know how soon districts would be set up. T. Lueders expressed the opinion that if the majority of ratepayers desired this change it was O.K. to proceed, but not otherwise, as he disagreed with compulsion. He said if it is considered that in Alberta we consider we have too much government, then would it not be equally reasonable for the Dominion Government to reduce the number of Provincial Governments and enlarge their areas for administration?

Mr. Ansley continued by stating that a number of the members of the legislature are in favor of the proposed change and that we should not consider methods but objectives. **Mr. P. Knight** of Unity No. 477 enquired if the government has compiled a definite plan of new set-ups in the Province as he understood such was the case. Answer: This is not correct. Mr. Knight read a resolution passed by the Annual Meeting, the gist of which was strong opposition to the proposal.

Mr. C. Scarborough asked if the Government's idea was based on what the people want or to set up a larger economical district. Mr. Ansley in his reply stated he was not personally in favor of any change unless his constituents support it and he has requested

the Government not to deal with his constituency without his getting the feeling of his constituents.

Mr. Kuhn of Liberty enquired if Pioneer M.D. would approve of being joined up with Columbia M.D. Mr. Ansley replied that Pioneer would rather join with Liberty M.D.

C. C. Gillies enquired "If we are to pay more taxes will the field of taxation be increased or widened? I am willing that we help weaker districts but if assistance is to be given to the poorer districts such should be the responsibility of the Government."

F. R. Haythorne expressed the opinion that the Government wishes to get rid of administration for L.I.D's. If a person needs relief, is his neighbor responsible to furnish same or is the M.D.? On the same grounds the needs of poorer M.D's. should be the responsibility of the Provincial Government.

C. C. Gillies asked if there was any reason for Strathcona M.D. to be placed in a larger unit. We do not need it from choice, and dislike to be dictated to. Mr. Ansley, in replying, agreed that Strathcona would not benefit from a change.

Geo. Peck stated that Strathcona was financially sound, has good equipment and proper supervision. Mr. Ansley further stated that the larger units will not solve the economic problems.

F. R. Haythorne enquired whether councils would be given an opportunity to discuss any new proposed boundaries. Mr. Ansley thought this could be arranged.

C. M. Scarborough moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Ansley who left for another appointment.—Carried.

The chairman invited **F. M. Baker, M.L.A.** for Clover Bar to speak. Commencing his remarks he stated he would like to have seen a Department official here to give information. His own stand was for progressive ideas. He was of the opinion that Clover Bar, Strathcona and part of Cornhill might be a logical area for a new unit, the north boundary being the Saskatchewan River. He would like to work with councils in the matter. He thought the School and Health unit were satisfactory.

C. M. Scarborough inquired if the Government would consider proposals from Councils as to desirable boundaries and does the Government intend to take action without the vote of the people? Mr. Baker replied that this was part of the Government's platform at the last election and no further opportunity could be given for voting. Mr. Scarborough stated he considered this an imposition.

F. R. Haythorne stated that when M.D's. were first set up it was at the wish of the ratepayers and enquired, "Have we progressed since or not?"

D. Hughes, of Looma, recommended that the councils get together and decide on the desired boundaries.

George Peck considered it was not fair to go ahead with this scheme without a vote being taken. He objected to going ahead while the war is on.

C. M. Scarborough suggested that the meeting appoint a committee to consider the matter and report to a further meeting to be arranged.

Mr. Baker, in conclusion, stated he was willing to consult with Clover Bar, Strathcona and Cornhill councils.

A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Baker.

(Continued on page 134)

Alberta Association of Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers

REFRESHER COURSE PROGRAMME AND SECRETARIES' CONVENTION

Wednesday, June 17th

- 8.30-9.30 Registration of Delegates.
9.30-10.00 Official Welcome by University Officials.
Hon. Lucien Maynard, Minister of Municipal Affairs.
Organization of and information re Course by Mr. Donald Cameron.
- 10.00-10.30 Greetings from Alberta Association of Municipal Districts, Mr. Paul Farnalls, President.
- 10.30-12.30 Wheat Acreage Reduction Act, 1942.
Mr. E. L. Gray.
Mr. W. C. Barrie.
Mr. T. F. Phillips (in charge of Federal Treasury Branch at Regina.)
- 12.40 Lunch.
- 2.00- 5.00 A. Soutter, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. Explanation and Discussion of 1942 Legislation affecting Municipal Administration.
Jos. Renshaw, Chief Municipal Inspector. Municipal Inspectors' Reports and their significance to the Council and Secretary-Treasurer.
William Hewlett, Superintendent of Collections. Final disposition of Uncollectible Advances.
Keith Switzer, Acting Supervisor Tax Recovery Procedure. Final Acquisition and subsequent sales of land under T.R. Act.
J. W. Judge, Director of Assessments. Important dates covered in the Assessment Act.

v v v

Thursday, June 18th

- 9.00-10.00 Professor Winspear—Possible elimination of unnecessary detail work in Rural Municipal Office.
- 10.00-12.30 J. E. Brownlee, K.C.—Problems of Municipal Administration.
- 12.40 Lunch
- 2.00- 3.00 A. P. C. Belyea, Director of Surveys—On Surveys.
- 3.00- 4.00 W. S. Gray, Solicitor to Department of Attorney General—Municipal By-laws, Form and essential requirements.
- 4.00- 5.00 The Municipal District Office and Its Relation to the Land Titles Office—by Registrar of Edmonton Land Titles Office.

Banquet

Speaker—Harold L. Weir, Editor Edmonton Bulletin. Subject—A Review of the War.

Friday, June 19th

- 9.00-12.30 **Secretary-Treasurers' Convention.**
Unfinished Business.
- 12.40 Lunch.
- 2.00 Members' appointments with Provincial Officials.

The above lectures and convention are to be held in the University of Alberta Buildings in Edmonton and accommodation will be provided for delegates at St. Stevens College. The programme as printed is tentative.

M.D. SECRETARIES DISCUSS WHEAT ACREAGE REDUCTION WITH MR. GRAY

A meeting re the 1942 programme of Wheat Acreage Reduction was arranged in the Palliser Hotel, Calgary, on Saturday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m. This meeting was called at the request of Mr. E. L. Gray, Director of the Wheat Acreage Reduction program. Some 25 secretary-treasurers surrounding the Calgary area were notified by telephone. Due to the extreme shortness of the notice of the meeting and the fact several of the secretaries connected had council meetings on that date, only some 13 were able to be present. The great interest taken in this matter was evidenced by the fact that three secretaries present travelled in the neighborhood of 100 miles to reach the city. Mr. E. L. Gray and Mr. W. C. Barrie, the P.F.A.A. Superintendent for Alberta, outlined the provisions of the 1942 Act, and a very interesting round-table conference followed which did a great deal to straighten out the problems which arose out of experience with the 1941 regulations.

"Is the Minister of Agriculture in?"

"Not just now, madam. What do you want him for?"

"Well, I have a geranium that isn't doing so well!"
EDMONTON JOURNAL.

v v v

Newly planted trees should be kept at least 15 to 20 feet from the edge of the pavement or travelled way, to allow for future widening. When planting of trees is proposed along a curve or near an intersection, it would be well for the engineer to consider whether the curve or intersection is designed for tomorrow as well as today. We are not yet through modifying our existing alignments.

*Do not burn or destroy this publication.
Sell it or give it to a salvage organization.
It is needed for victory.*

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MARCH CONVENTION

By J. J. McGURRAN, Secretary

(Continued from April issue)

Crop Insurance and P.F.A.A.

Resolution No. 97. Protested the regulations of the P.F.A.A. which prevent a dispossessed farmer and farmers enlisting in His Majesty's Forces from receiving his bonus cheque unless and until he obtains a lease for the ensuing year.

This suggestion has been partially embodied in the amendments to P.F.A.A. which provide that the Minister may pay the award to any farmer resident in the township from May 1st to November 1st of the award year. This, however, does not apply to the crop year 1940.

Resolution No. 98. Requested an amendment to the P.F.A.A. so that the bonus would be paid on the value of grain harvested per acre rather than on the number of bushels.

Consideration has been given to making grade, as well as yield, a factor in determining eligibility, but in view of the administrative difficulties involved it was deemed inadvisable to amend the Act to make a provision of this kind without giving the proposal further careful study.

Resolution No. 99. Asked that where a local Municipal Council calls for a re-inspection the same be granted and that this be made retroactive to the crop year 1940.

The Federal Department of Agriculture maintains that the present system for determining yield has been quite thorough and well carried out. They state that when the municipality has cause to be dissatisfied with the decision of the Board of Review in respect of any township on the basis of such inspection, they have the privilege of appealing this decision, and where the Board has confirmed its first decision and the municipality still feels the yield was below twelve bushels per acre, an opportunity has been given for the municipality to compile and submit information with respect to the production and yield of each farmer to substantiate his claim.

Resolution No. 101. Asked that the word "may" where same appears in Sections 3 and 4 of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act be substituted with the word "shall."

This matter has been discussed on more than one occasion in the House of Commons, and the Minister has stated that to all intents and purposes "may" has the effect of "shall" in Sections 3 and 4 of the Act.

Resolution No. 102. Asked amendment to the

Act to provide that all townships with average yield of five bushels or less be declared a crop failure area regardless of the number of such townships in any province.

The fundamental reason for a minimum area requirement in connection with crop failure is that under the circumstances in which this type of assistance is applicable, the Dominion should not be expected to provide assistance unless the area is sufficiently large to justify national action, otherwise local crop failure conditions in any other Province in Canada would give such a Province the right to claim crop failure assistance on the same basis.

Resolution No. 160. Protested the action of withdrawing awards from men who had enlisted in His Majesty's Forces, and asked that the said awards be reinstated and paid forthwith.

This Resolution is evidently based on a misunderstanding. There was no withdrawal of awards by reason of the farmer having enlisted in His Majesty's Forces. On the other hand enlisted men receive lenient and preferential treatment. The P.F.A.A. rulings relating to farmers on active service were greatly relaxed in 1941 compared to 1940. The important changes are as follows:

1. A farmer can get paid his 1941 award if he enlisted after November 1st, 1941, without having to continue farming in 1942.
2. Irrespective of the date of his enlistment payment can be made to the farmer if a relative or dependent continued operations on his behalf.
3. Payment can be made to the enlisted party on the basis of his own land. In 1940 his land would be joined with the land operated by the dependent and the whole paid as one unit with only a single payment. This ruling now makes more payments as it reduces the possibility of non-payment because of provisions under Section 8(b) of the P.F.A. Act.

Farm Economic and Educational Organization

District Directors Botkin and Ferrie were named as our delegates to meet with representatives of other Rural and Co-operative organizations to deal with the above matter. It has now become fairly evident that the United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section) is financially unable to carry on as the economic and educational agency of the farmers in this Province. It is likewise abundantly clear that the need for a Province-wide farmers' organization is greater than ever before if we are to prevent the complete breakdown of the economy of Western agriculture. With these established facts before them the committee met several times in an attempt to find a solution to the problem. The first proposal was that the Provincial Organizations such as the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Poultry Pool, Co-operative Wholesalers Society, Co-operative Refineries, Dairy Pool, Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company, and others, join in an effort to revitalize the United Farmers of Canada by supplying necessary funds enabling it to continue functioning. As all the organizations mentioned were not in agreement to support such a movement, attention was directed to the feasibility of setting up a new farmers' organization on a non-political, non-commercial, and non-sectarian basis. The principal

aims and objectives of the new Association would be adequate debt adjustment, crop insurance, farm rehabilitation, health services, together with such other readjustments in our present day deplorable rural conditions that would guarantee social and economic justice to all farmers and their families. The establishment of such an organization would not prevent this Association from dealing with farm problems, but would result in our recommendations and those of other interested groups being referred to the recognized farmers' organization for approval and submission to the proper authorities. Your Executive would thus be relieved, to a great extent, from devoting time and attention to such matters, thereby enabling them to render even greater service to the members of this Association in those problems which are considered strictly municipal in character, and with which we are more competent to deal.

During this Convention Directors Botkin and Ferrie will be given an opportunity to present the proposed plan in order that the delegates may be fully informed of the programme the committee has in view, and the manner suggested to carry it into effect. The committee urges that fair, impartial and most careful consideration be given this very important proposal, as their future collaboration with the groups named will, to a great extent, be guided by your final decision in the matter.

Legal Service

Mr. B. J. McDaniel, K.C., Regina, Saskatchewan, was again retained as Solicitor for the Association at an annual retaining fee of one thousand dollars. Legal service is furnished free of charge to all rural municipalities that are members of the Association in good standing. No restriction is placed on the number of legal opinions that may be rendered to any municipality in a year, and Mr. McDaniel cordially invites municipal officials to call on him at his office in Regina at any time to discuss their problems and particularly where a legal point or manner of procedure is involved.

During the year Mr. McDaniel wrote two hundred and sixty-one legal opinions and personally interviewed a larger number of Reeves, Councillors, and Secretary-Treasurers in his office. The value of this branch of our service is becoming more evident each year. As a result of the advice municipal councils receive from Mr. McDaniel, who has given special attention to Municipal Law over a long period of years, much useless and costly litigation has been avoided. It is only on rare occasions that legal actions involving rural municipalities come before the courts in this Province.

The Rural Municipal Secretary-Treasurers' Superannuation Act

Provision for the retirement of Secretary-Treasurers at a stated age and for the payment of a superannuation allowance as from date of retirement is contained in the above Act passed at the 1941 session of the Legislature. This legislation was adopted as a result of Resolutions passed at several Annual Conventions of this Association, and after the superannuation plan as prepared by Mr. C. G. Bryden had been referred to the municipal councils and received majority approval.

The fund is administered by a board of five members including the President and Vice-President of this Association. A detailed report of the fund

will be presented to this Convention by the Board Chairman, Mr. L. Jacobs, F.C.A., Regina, Saskatchewan.

While the fund is operated through our office in the City of Regina it should be distinctly understood that it is not a subsidiary of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, and all correspondence, remittances, etc., of the two organizations should be dealt with separately in order to avoid errors, confusion, and misunderstanding.

Re: Mobile Kitchen Unit

The Council and Secretary-Treasurer of the Rural Municipality of Cory No. 344, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, were primarily responsible for a campaign inaugurated at the 1941 Convention, for the purpose of soliciting funds to purchase a Mobile Kitchen Unit for use in some bombed out area in Great Britain. Contributions to the fund totalled \$1,272.00, which amount was transmitted to England by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and was used in the purchase of a splendid mobile canteen for the City of Plymouth. By a happy co-incidence the presentation took place as a preliminary to the celebration of Canadian Maple Leaf week. Mr. Vincent Massey, High Commissioner of Canada, presented our gift to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Viscount and Viscountess Astor, M.P. for Sutton. British newspapers devoted considerable space to the presentation ceremonies and there were many expressions of thanks tendered this Association and its members for this token of sympathy towards the heroic civilian defenders of that historic city. The High Commissioner of Canada gratefully acknowledged his thanks and the thanks of the people of Plymouth, and kindly furnished us with photographs of the canteen and the officials who took part in the presentation ceremonies.

Wheat Acreage Reduction Plan

Shortly after the close of our 1941 Convention the Presidents and Secretaries of the three Western Canada Municipal Organizations were called to Ottawa by the Honorable J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, to confer with him and officials of that department in an effort to determine ways and means whereby the municipal offices and their staffs could assist in carrying out the details in connection with the Government's Wheat Acreage Reduction Plan, and in particular to receive the applications of all those farmers who voluntarily agreed to participate in the plan. Upon our return from Ottawa all rural municipalities were contacted and in every case but one it was agreed that the requested assistance would be given. Great credit is due the Municipal Secretaries of this Province for the capable manner in which they carried out this difficult work at a time of the year when they were exceptionally busy with their own ordinary office duties. In a few instances secretaries complained that this additional work should not have been imposed upon them, and further complaints have been registered that in isolated cases the council refused to turn over to the Secretary all the fees paid by the Department of Agriculture for this work.

There is a possibility that a somewhat similar Government programme may be adopted this year, and it might be well to determine in advance if it is the desire of municipal officials that their offices

and staffs be again used for the purpose of securing applications. We suggest that the Delegates here assembled express an opinion on the matter in which an arrangement with the Department of Agriculture should be concluded. It would simplify matters considerably if the Councils would agree that the Secretary be appointed a temporary representative of the Department of Agriculture and the remuneration be paid to the Secretary direct.

SUNDRY MATTERS

A. Federal Tax on Gasoline:

When the Government announced the imposition of a three cent per gallon tax on gasoline several Councils protested on the grounds that the tax was inequitable as between the large farmer using Diesel tractor and burning tax free Diesel fuel and distillate and the small farmer with the straight gas burning engine. This matter was discussed at District meetings held throughout the Province in the summer months and in view of the unanimity of opinion received the Federal Government was requested to remove the alleged inequity by lowering the present tax and applying it to all grades of farm fuel. The Minister of Finance advised that our suggestion would be held for reference when possible amendments to tax legislation are again receiving attention.

The matter comes before this Convention in the form of a Resolution almost identical with the recommendations above referred to. Any proposal to change the present system which may be decided upon by the Delegates can be submitted to the Government to be dealt with by the Parliament now in session.

B. Wheat for Gristing Purposes:

Several Municipal Councils at District Conventions protested that portion of the Canadian Wheat Board regulations relating to wheat delivered for gristing purposes. These protests were placed before the Board and on August 1st, 1941, the regulations were amended to except from the farmer's quota the amount of wheat taken to the mill for gristing for the farmer's own family use.

C. Re: Clause 17 of Wheat Marketing Regulations:

This order, passed under power of the War Measures Act, indicated intention to divide proportionately a share of each quota between producer and others with equity in the farm. This meant in effect the setting aside of the Province's protective legislation. Your Executive took strenuous objection against the terms of this Order and as a result of their objections, and those of other interested groups, the Order was amended to the following effect, viz.: That so far as the first quota of five bushels deliverable is concerned the proceeds of that quota will be paid to the producer except in cases where there is a bona fide share of crop lease between one producer and another. Municipalities were notified accordingly by our Solicitor on August 8th, 1941.

D. Re: Purple Gasoline:

In view of certain information brought before the Executive during the year it was decided to recommend to the Provincial Tax Commission that the Petroleum Products Act and regulations thereto be clarified in such a manner that it may be abundantly clear that the farmer is permitted to use purple gasoline in his tractor when taking the said tractor to a point beyond his farm for the purpose of repair. The Minister in charge of that Department has as-

sured us that every possible consideration will be given to this request.

E. Wheat Delivery Quotas for Rural Municipalities:

Under the present Canadian Wheat Board regulations municipalities are not issued a quota delivery permit. The Executive has recommended that the Government of the Province of Saskatchewan endeavour to make the necessary arrangements with the Canadian Wheat Board to provide rural municipalities with a wheat quota enabling them to take delivery of grain to make possible the enforcement of payment of taxes and seed grain advances.

F. Re: Unemployment Insurance:

The Executive protested the ruling of the Unemployment Insurance Commission relating to employees of rural municipalities. This was a matter of considerable concern to municipal officials by reason of the fact that temporary employees were subject to the usual deductions but in order to obtain any benefits were required to have at least one hundred and eighty days' employment. In addition municipal offices would be hopelessly involved in attempting to keep a complete record of each employee no matter how short the duration of his services.

The Executive protested this regulation with the result that it was amended to provide the following exemption:—

"Employment by a rural municipality of persons who are ordinarily engaged in agriculture, or other non-insurable employment, when it is known that the employment of the said persons will be for a period not exceeding eight weeks in the twelve month period ending March 31st in any year, provided that this Order shall not apply in the case of persons who have been engaged in some other insurable employment during the year which is evidenced by the fact that they are in possession of insurance books."

This amendment regulation appears to satisfactorily dispose of the major objections which Rural Municipal Officials raised to the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act and the regulations in regard thereto.

Trading Department

The co-operative trading activities of the Association have again experienced a successful year. Total sales were \$92,855.80, as compared with \$85,971.39 in the preceding year.

A. Gopher Poison:

S.A.R.M. continues to lead the field in Gopher Poison sales in Western Canada. One and one-half million cans of this commodity have now been marketed, and not a single complaint has been received regarding the quality of the product. War conditions have caused a serious shortage in some of the raw materials used in the manufacture of liquid Gopher Poison, and this is particularly true of the principal active ingredient, strychnine. As a result of these shortages manufacturing costs have mounted steadily since the outbreak of the War, thus necessitating an increase in the price of the finished product. This price increase is very small compared to that which took place during the Great War in 1914-18. At that time the cost of liquid Gopher Poison was fully one hundred per cent higher than it is today. We are confident that if the Association was not engaged in co-operative trading, municipalities would be again exploited as they were a quarter of a century ago.

B. Stationery Sales:

Sales of Stationery and office equipment showed a decided increase over those of 1940. To a great extent this increase was brought about by employing a second salesman, thereby enabling our staff to call on the Secretary-Treasurers more frequently than had been possible with one man covering the territory. Municipal secretaries appear to appreciate this additional service and it is our intention to continue this practice while business conditions warrant the additional expense.

Patronage Dividends on Stationery purchases in the year 1941 amounting to \$4,852.93 were credited to members' accounts at the close of the year's business. Patronage Dividends allocated during the past five years totalled \$25,723.19. Every cent of this amount is a direct saving to the Municipalities and is in addition to other benefits accruing as a result of the decision made at our 1936 Convention to re-engage in the Stationery business. During the year certain competitive firms made a determined effort to disturb our Tax Roll business by putting on a drastic price cutting drive on this particular item of goods. In our advertisement appearing in this year's Convention Handbook is a comparison of Tax Roll prices over a period of years, which indicates in no uncertain manner that this Association has been solely instrumental in bringing into force a policy of supplying Municipalities with their Stationery requirements at fair and reasonable prices. That will be our continued policy and we appeal to member municipalities to give us their loyal support, and not to be unduly influenced by tactics of the nature mentioned which have only one objective in view, namely an attempt to disorganize our price structure in the hope of creating a false impression that our prices are unduly high. This is an old trick that has been employed over a long period of years in an attempt to discredit co-operative enterprises in Western Canada, but has been successful only when members of co-operatives have been gullible enough to swallow the bait held out to them. This Association has no intention of meeting unwarranted price reduction simply for the purpose of holding business. When reduction or adjustment in prices are justified they will be brought into force without reference to any "bargain sales" publicity campaign, but we refuse to be led into a trap engineered for the express purpose of undermining our co-operative effort. We rely on the good judgment and common sense of our members to follow a similar course.

C. Fidelity Bonds

The Association's policy of handling Fidelity Bonds covering Secretary-Treasurers and other municipal employees required to give security for the faithful performance of their duties continues to function in a most satisfactory manner. At the present time more than eighty-five per cent of the municipal secretaries are bonded through our office and in addition covering is given to a large number of Assistant Secretaries and Tax Collectors. Although there have been a few defalcations in recent years no claim for compensation has been filed with our company since early in 1937. Where shortages occurred the defaulter was either not bonded through the Association or satisfactory restitution arrangements were made without filing a claim upon the Bonding Company.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Auditor's Report for the year ended December 31st, 1941, indicates the Association's excellent financial position with a surplus of assets over liabilities of \$60,597.19, an increase of \$898.14 over the preceding year. It will be noted that \$43,448.03 of our surplus is comprised of investments in bonds and debentures, the major portion consisting of Dominion and Provincial Government securities. The only security held by the Association which is in default at this date is interest accrued on City of Weyburn bonds. In the year 1941, \$5,000.00 was invested in Canada's First Victory Loan Bonds and \$480.00 in War Savings Certificates.

Customer municipalities were indebted to the Association for goods purchased in a total amount of \$13,742.82, excluding amounts which had been dealt with by the Local Government Board under the Drought Area Debt Adjustment Act. These latter amounts involved \$3,424.93, of which \$191.00 was ordered cancelled, and the remainder of \$3,133.93 adjusted over a period of years at low interest rates. Of the amount cancelled (\$191.00) the sum of \$121.32 was recovered through an arrangement with one of our suppliers which provided for their bearing a proportionate share of any ultimate losses which might result.

SASKATCHEWAN SIDE-LIGHTS

Porcupine Plain is a newly organized Village in Saskatchewan.

v v v

Jas. B. Willey replaces **W. O. Boychuk** as secretary-treasurer of **R.M. Elma** at Flaxcombe.

v v v

S. N. Sawchuk is the new village secretary-treasurer of **Insinger**; **M. L. Swenarchuk** of **Marsden** and **J. J. Matsalla** of **Rama**.

v v v

It is possible that pebble deposits in southwestern Saskatchewan may provide a substitute for steel balls and rods used in ore grinding mills, should steel be not obtainable. Investigations are under way.

RURAL MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTING AND PRACTICE

(SASKATCHEWAN)

A TEXT BOOK
FOR
MUNICIPAL SECRETARIES
TAX COLLECTORS
COUNCILLORS
ETC.

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Municipal Calendar for May and June

SASKATCHEWAN

Cities and Towns

The council of every town shall transfer, at least monthly, to the treasurer of any school district situated wholly or partly within the town, any taxes which the town has collected on behalf of the district. Sec. 538 Town Act.

City and Town Council may, by by-law, allow a discount for prompt payment of taxes, not exceeding 1 per cent for each full month that such payment is made before December 31st of the year in which the taxes are imposed. No discount on local improvement rates. Sec. 517(3) and (4) City Act, Sec. 507(3) and (4) Town Act.

May 31.—Assessors in cities and towns where "Special Provisions" have not been adopted shall complete assessment rolls by this date. Sec. 458, Town Act; Sec. 469 City Act.

June 15.—Within fifteen days after the completion of the assessment rolls in cities and towns, assessors shall give notice by publication and also mail assessment notices. Sections 472 and 473 City Act. Sections 461 and 462 Town Act.

June 30.—The council may by by-law provide that, where the assessor (or such other person as may be appointed by the city or town to collect the poll tax) is satisfied on the 30th day of June in any year the income of a married person was less than \$900.00 in a city or \$450.00 in a town or that the income of an unmarried person was less than \$480.00 in a city or \$240.00 in a town (or such lesser sum in either case as may be specified in the by-law) the tax shall not be payable by such person in that year. Sec. 499(2) City Act; Sec. 489(1) (a) Town Act.

July 1.—Where a poll tax has been levied, same may be collected any time after this date. Sec. 499 (6) City Act; Sec. 489(5) Town Act.

July 1.—If previous to this date a town has laid watermains at the expense of the corporation the Council may, by by-law, assess special annual rate on properties abutting directly upon the work. Sec. 582 Town Act.

Villages

As soon as practicable in each year, council of village shall prepare estimates of expenditures for the year and upon completion, after assessment roll has been laid before the council, levy rate. Sec. 316 and 317(1) Village Act.

Village council may by by-law allow a discount for prompt payment of taxes not exceeding one per cent for each full month up to 4 months that such payment is made before December 31st. Sec. 330(1) Village Act.

May 31.—Assessment rolls to be made not later than this date. Sec. 282(1) Village Act.

June 1.—Notwithstanding anything contained in Section 19, Council of Summer Resort Village may, on or before this date, adopt provisions as in section 21, Village Act.

June 1.—By-law for licensing hawkers, etc., in summer resort villages to be passed on or before this date. Sec. 20, Village Act.

June 1.—Council may, by passing a by-law on

or before this date, dispense with sending out assessment notices except where assessment is altered; and where such by-law is passed notice in the form given in Sec. 292 shall be published in the Saskatchewan Gazette within two weeks after completion of the assessment roll and after same has been corrected by Sec. 290. Sec. 293(5) Village Act.

June 30.—On or before this date, second quarter of the estimated amount required to meet the expenditures of school districts to be paid by councils of villages. Sec. 321(1) Village Act.

Rural Municipalities

From time to time and when the office becomes vacant, an auditor shall be appointed. Sec. 166(1) R.M. Act.

Early in each year, secretary of council shall cause to be published in local newspapers a list of pounds, etc. Sec. 9(3) Stray Animals Act.

As soon as practicable in each year, councils of rural municipalities shall prepare estimates of expenditures for the year in form prescribed by the Minister and upon completion, after assessment roll has been laid before the council, levy rate. Secs. 332 and 333 R.M. Act.

May 1-Oct. 31.—Any proprietor may distrain any animal running at large in a herd district between these dates. Sec. 17(b) Stray Animals Act.

June 1.—Before this date secretary-treasurer shall prepare and forward to the Hail Association a detailed statement, verified by statutory declaration, of all lands the withdrawal of which has not been approved by council. Sec. 31(2) Municipal Hail Insurance Act.

May 31.—On or before this date assessment roll shall be completed and, within two weeks after completion, assessor shall post notice of same and send out assessment notices.

Note: Within twenty days after the posting of notice of completion ratepayers objecting to assessment must lodge complaint in writing with the secretary of the municipality. Subsection (1) Sec. 286, R.M. Act; Subsection (1) Sec. 297 R.M. Act; Sec. 298, R.M. Act.

June 1.—On or before this date auditors shall prepare financial statement for financial year ending previous December 31st and present to the reeve who shall lay same before council at its next meeting. Sec. 168(1) R.M. Act.

June 1.—Council may, by passing a by-law on or before this date, dispense with sending out assessment notices except where assessment is altered, and where such by-law is passed notice in the form given in section 298 shall be published in the Saskatchewan Gazette within two weeks after completion of the assessment roll and after same has been corrected by section 294. Sec. 297(2) R.M. Act.

June 10.—All persons liable to assessment for hail insurance shall make a report to the secretary-treasurer of the municipality on or before this date. Sec. 29(1) Mun. Hail Ins. Act.

June 10-Sept. 15.—Damage suffered between these dates or in the case of fall rye between the first day of June and the 15th day of Sept., both inclusive, on lands assessed under the Municipal Hail

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Insurance Act, shall be reported by registered letter by claimant of crop to secretary of Association within three days of such damage. Sec. 39(1) Mun. Hail Ins. Act.

June 30.—On or before this date, second quarter of the estimated amount required to meet the expenditures of school districts to be paid by councils of rural municipalities. Sec. 338(1) R.M. Act.

June 30.—On or before this date secretary-treasurer of municipality shall transmit to secretary of Hail Insurance Association statement in duplicate showing area of all lands assessed for purposes of Hail Insurance Act. Sec. 34(1) Mun. Hail Ins. Act.

Within 2 weeks after completion of assessment roll (on or before May 31st) notice of by-law in form given in Sec. 298 shall be published in Saskatchewan Gazette, where the sending out of assessment notices is being dispensed with. Sec. 297(5) R.M. Act.

July 1.—If arrears of hail insurance rates or any portion thereof are paid before this date, one-half of the penalty added in 1940 shall be rebated. Sec. 33(5) Municipal Hail Insurance Act.

July 1.—Notwithstanding provisions of section 15, after this date in any year, in the case of perennial sow thistle, only 72 hours from the time notice is served shall be allowed in which to commence work. Sec. 15(6) Noxious Weeds Act.

July 1.—If, by this date, claims of preceding year have not been paid in full, the Board may by resolution suspend payment until conditions warrant further pro rata payments. Sec. 42(4) M.H. Ins. Act.

July 1.—On or before this date secretary-treasurer shall forward copy of the annual financial statement to the Department and a synopsis to every person assessed on the last revised assessment roll of the municipality. Sec. 168(2) R.M. Act.

July 5.—Within twenty days after the posting of notice of completion (by June 15th) ratepayers objecting to assessment must lodge complaint in writing with the secretary of the municipality. Sec. 298 R.M. Act.

All Municipalities

Assessment rolls to be completed as early in the year as possible. Sec. 460 City Act; Sec. 447 Town Act; Sec. 282(1) Village Act; Sec. 286(1) R.M. Act.

If arrears of taxes, or any portion thereof, are paid before July 1st, in any year, one-half the penalty added in that year shall be rebated. Sec. 508(1) City Act; Sec. 496(1) Town Act; Sec. 321(1) Village Act. Sec. 345(1) R.M. Act.

June 10.—On or before 10th day of each month municipalities to which Sec. 13 applies shall, if required to do so by Provincial Treasurer, forward to him statement showing collections. Sec. 14 Public Revenues Act.

TIMELY FORMS for MAY AND JUNE

MANITOBA

Roadwork Forms	Tax Notices
Jury Lists	List of Accounts
Tax Rate and Debenture Book	Tourist Park Register
Bridge and Traffic Cards	Hay and Wood Permit Books
Marriage Register	Bank Cheques Tally-ho bound
Police Badges	Dog Tags
Daily Gravel Record Books	Weed Supplies
Vital Statistical Registers	Assessors' Supplies
Tax Certificate Books	Day Labor Pay Sheets
Tax Receipt Books	Time Books
Monthly Financial Statements	Tax Sale Journal Record Shts.
Poundkeepers' Supplies	
Cash Book Disbursements and Receipts, loose leaf	
Letters, re Land in Arrears, padded 50's.	
Councillor's Account Forms	Tax Prepayment Receipts, books 50's in duplicate.
Tax Sale Certificate and Tax Title Sheets.	Receipt Books for work performed (Statute Labor, etc.)
Receipt Books for Revenue other than Taxes, 2 or 4 on.	Decision Court of Revision Sheets in dup. with Summary Sheets.
Certificate of Lien (Hospital Account)	
Charity Aid Act Notices	
Notice of Claim Under Hospital Aid Act	
Sale of Land for Arrears of Taxes (for publication and for council)	

SASKATCHEWAN

Bank Currency Envelopes	Bank Cheques, Tally-Ho bound
Monthly Statement of Indemnity and Supervision Books in Dup.	
Assessment Notices	Assessment Maps
Tax Rate and Debenture Book	Tourist Park Register
Bridge and Traffic Cards	
Affidavit re Military Status	Certificate of Exemption Forms
Withdrawal and Discharge of Caveat	
Application for Remission of Taxes (Volunteers and Reservists Relief Act)	
Tax Lien Procedure Record	Tax Enforcement Property Record
Telephone Co., List of Lands	
Cash Books	License Books
Remittance Forms	Resolutions Forms
Tax Certificates	Tax Sale Forms
Police Supplies	Tax Receipts
	Auditors' Notices
	Budget Forms
	Voucher Forms
	General Receipts
	Time Books
Tax Lien Lists, pads of 50	Tax Enforcement Lists, pads of 50.
Withdrawal of Tax Lien, book of 50 in duplicate.	Bank Deposit Book and Envelopes.
Public Notice Posters	Collectors' Interim Receipts
Discharge of Relief Lien Forms	Poundkeepers' Supplies
	Day Labor Pay Sheets
Statement Receipts and Payments	Tax Notices
Road Work Pay Sheets	Financial Statements, Multilith Style.

ALBERTA

Weed Inspectors' Supplies	Tax Receipts
Tax Notices	Currency Envelopes
Bank Cheques, Tally-Ho bnd.	Bridge and Traffic Notices.
Day Labor Pay Sheets	Poundkeepers' Supplies
Police Dept. Supplies	List of Advances
Motion Forms	General Receipts
Resolution Forms	Time Books
Tax Certificates	License Books
M.D. Estimate Forms, printed 4 sides	Schedule of Seizure for Taxes
Requisition Forms—Books in Duplicate	Bank Deposit Book in Duplicate.
Councillors Monthly Reports	Partial Withdrawal forms.
School Tax Collection Sheets	Tax Sale Agreement in Duplicate.
Tourist Park Register	Approval of Sale by Minister No. 57, padded 25's.
Soldiers' Home and Property Register.	Remittance Books
Register.	Notice of Distress and Inventory.
Tax Consolidation Record Sheets.	Road Work Forms
By-law Forms Re-Leasing of Land, No. 55	Agricultural Society Supplies

SAMPLES OF MUNICIPAL FORMS SENT ON REQUEST

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June 1.—Second quarterly statement sent to Councils by secretary-treasurers of Union Hospital Board. Sec. 137(1) Union Hospitals Act.

June 10.—Amounts collected on account of public revenues tax shall be forwarded to Provincial Treasurer within 10 days after end of each calendar month. Sec. 12 Public Revenues Act.

June 30.—On or before this date all municipal councils shall pay to the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League one-half of their share of the League expenditure as shown on notice sent preceding April 15th. Sec. 291 City Act; Sec. 291, Town Act; Sec. 230 Village Act; Sec. 246 R.M. Act.

v v v
MANITOBA

May 15.-Aug. 1.—Statute labor to be done between these dates, unless ordered otherwise by council. Sec. 1087(1) Municipal Act. Penalty in Sec. 1089.

Between May 15th and October 15th Weed Inspectors to be employed by council not less than three and one-half months, unless this period is shortened by the Minister on special request from council. Sec. 20 Noxious Weeds Act.

June 1.—One-half of one per cent added as monthly penalty to arrears of taxes. Sec. 1098, Municipal Act.

June 1.—Monthly statement by treasurer to Head of Corporation. Sec. 351 Municipal Act.

June 10.—Copy of Treasurer's Monthly Statement to be forwarded to Minister before 10th day of each month. Sec. 581 Municipal Act.

June 30.—On request of Provincial Treasurer, treasurer of municipality shall furnish him monthly on the last day of the month, a detailed statement re seed grain and fodder accounts. Sec. 893(1) Municipal Act.

v v v
ALBERTA

Towns and Villages

Council shall, as soon as practicable in each year, prepare detailed estimate in the prescribed form of probable expenditures for the year. Upon completion of above estimate rate to be struck. Sec. 347 Town and Village Act.

Immediately upon completion of the assessment roll, assessor shall make and attach thereto a statutory declaration in Form "W." Sec. 284, Town and Village Act.

Within 2 weeks of completion of assessment roll secretary-treasurer mails assessment slips. Sec. 285 (1) Town and Village Act. And publishes notice in newspapers or posts up. Sec. 286 Town and Village Act.

June 15.—As soon as possible after end of each month and not later than the 15th day thereof town and village secretary-treasurer shall prepare in prescribed form statement of moneys received by him during previous month and submit such statement to council at next meeting and enter a copy in minutes of said meeting. Sec. 89(r) Town and Village Act.

June 30.—All duties of town and village councils as Courts of Revision must be completed by this date. Sec. 314, Town and Village Act.

Municipal Districts

Dec. 15.-June 30.—Current taxes payable at par between these dates. Sec. 350(2) M.D. Act.

As soon as practicable in each year, M.D. coun-

cils shall prepare in detail estimate of probable expenditure of the district for the year for ordinary municipal purposes, and shall cause a copy of such estimate to be incorporated in the minutes. Sec. 337, M.D. Act.

Upon completion of above estimate, rate is struck. Sec. 338 M.D. Act.

May 31.-Sept. 1.—Council may by by-law provide that a discount of more than 5% but not exceeding 7 per cent, shall be allowed on all payments on current taxes made between these dates. Sec. 350(a) M.D. Act.

June 1.—The council may by by-law provide that a discount of more than 5% but not exceeding 10% shall be allowed on all payments on current taxes before this date. Sec. 350(a) M.D. Act.

June 5.—Within 5 days after end of each month M.D. secretary-treasurer prepares in prescribed form statement of moneys received by him during previous month and submits such statements to council at next meeting and enters a copy in minutes of said meeting. Sec. 82(s) M.D. Act.

June 15.—Second quarterly statement of school taxes paid by council of M.D.'s to school board. Sec. 372(1) M.D. Act.

June 30.—Current taxes payable at par up to this date. Sec. 350(2) M.D. Act.

As soon as assessment roll for the year has been revised, M.D. secretary-treasurer forwards secretary of each school concerned statement re assessed value of land in such school district. Sec. 82(k) M.D. Act.

ENLARGED M.D. UNITS

(Continued from page 126)

D. Roberts, Secretary of M.D. Association, addressed the meeting and presented a resume of the growth of the idea of enlargement for administration areas. Same has been discussed by the Association since 1932 with recommendation that some changes were desirable, which resulted in a survey being made in 1940, which is fully reported in a booklet issued by the Association. There are some districts which can still function without any change. One advantage of a larger M.D. would be the more economic use of road equipment for full time. If districts are too large it could interfere with the most economical use of road equipment and this aspect should have consideration. He considered quite definitely that the change could not be more economic.

Mr. Knight from Unity stated that his M.D. had the same equipment for roads as Strathcona, which works very satisfactory and he objects to being interfered with.

Mr. Roberts presented some interesting figures relating to the cost in operation of machinery in Clover Bar M.D.

C. Peck moved "That the Council of M.D. No. 518 co-operate with other Councillors to meet with Mr. Baker to discuss boundaries and to call a public meeting if necessary." Seconded by W. Hawkins.—Carried.

(The News is indebted to Dennis Brown, secretary M.D. Strathcona, for the copy of above minutes.)

George Bissett is the new secretary-treasurer of R.M. Brenda, Manitoba, at Waskada.

v v v

Tax rate in M.D. Royal, Alta., will be 3 mills for municipal purposes.

MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS

(Continued from page 121)

the mill, the mine and the lake to market in reasonable comfort over roads reasonably sufficient for their purposes and only a road development scheme that takes care of all these will prove satisfactory to our people.

First Things First

Gentlemen, I have outlined to you what I hope will be the road policy of my Department but all that I have said must be taken as being subject to what I am now about to say to you.

At this moment we are engaged in a struggle which is the testing time of our nation and our Empire. Whatever of these expenditures and policies and plans have to be sacrificed to enable us to win that conflict, I and the Government that I represent will gladly and willingly sacrifice. The plans and policies of which I have spoken are things of great importance but roads, the price of wheat and the future of our Province are minor considerations compared to the winning of the war.

The mother or the father who has lent her or his son to the defence of Canada knows that the life of that son must not be imperilled because you or I have taken moneys for road purposes that should have been devoted to the making of guns, airplanes, tanks, ships and munitions of war to protect him. Whatever of sacrifice has to be made for the furtherance of our war effort will be cheerfully made by you and by me.

It will profit us nothing that we have the best highways in the world if we travel those highways as the serfs of the totalitarian powers who now attack us. Better that we travel barefoot through the wilderness that our fathers overcame than travel in luxury and ease over paved highways if the price of those highways is the loss of freedom of worship, freedom of speech, freedom of thought and freedom from fear.

Today tyranny and brutality oppose liberty and freedom. My heart bleeds for the mothers and fathers, the wives and sweethearts whose sons,

husbands and lovers fight on land, on sea and in the air to preserve for us the liberties our forefathers won.

Today the true Cross and Swatiska stand opposed. Today we choose Christ or Barabbas.

I know that you say to me that whatever of these plans must be sacrificed you gladly sacrifice them to bring about victory for our ideals, that right may triumph, justice may prevail and a righteous peace may reign again and I leave you knowing that your will is that I shall put first things first and all else behind me.

MANITOBA OFFICE PAGE

(Continued from page 122)

summer comes. and that we should do our share towards conservation of fuel and rubber, by making the one municipal assembly suffice.

Your secretary will be glad to hear from you, as to how you feel about this important move.—H.S.R.

v v v

Dissatisfaction

It has been said that dissatisfaction tends towards achievement. That is, if a person is dissatisfied with his lot he works very hard to better it and thus makes greater strides ahead. This is not always true. Many who are dissatisfied with their lot become discouraged and think that striving is folly, and they sink lower and lower. "What is the use?" they cry. Finally they completely lose their foothold and sink into the dregs of life. It all depends on the person.

Dissatisfaction can become destructive or it can be constructive. People look at matters in different lights. Destruction leads to disease, while construction leads to victory. Some use dissatisfaction as a ramp on which to ascend; others use it as a chute on which to make a rapid slide into the mire of failure. You who are reading this, are you dissatisfied with your job? I hope not. If you are, let's hope at least that you are on "a ramp." Life is never humdrum for the man who starts each day with vim and enthusiasm, determined to do his best.—H.S.R.

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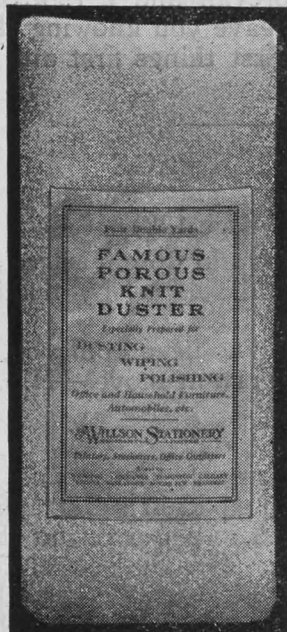
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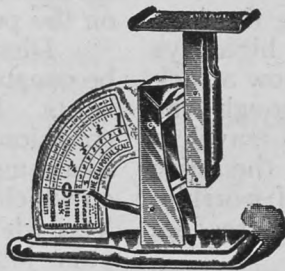


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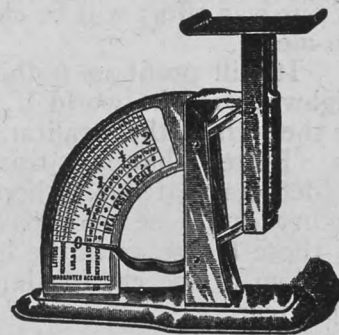
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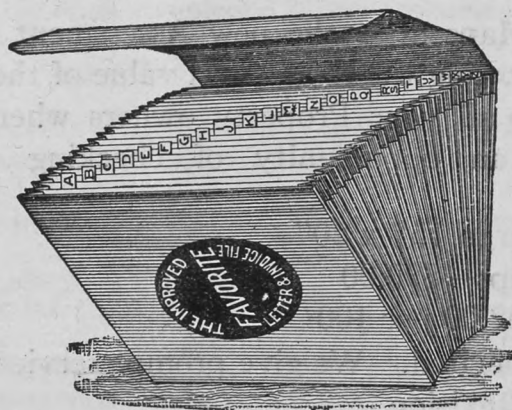


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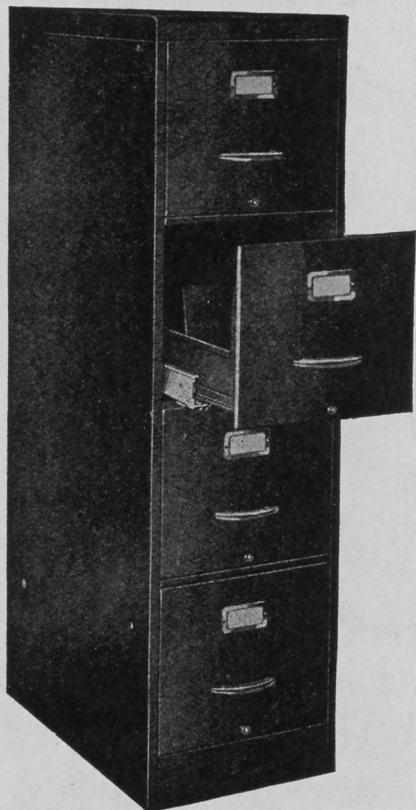
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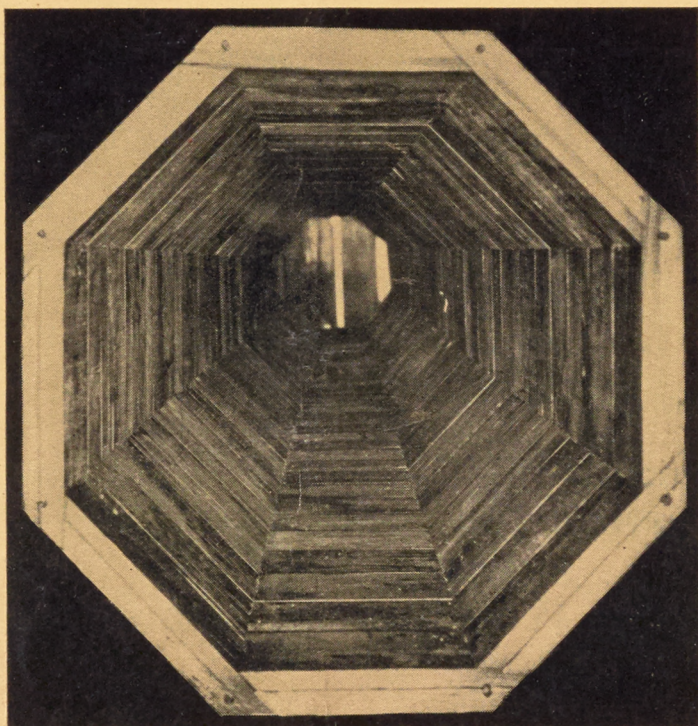
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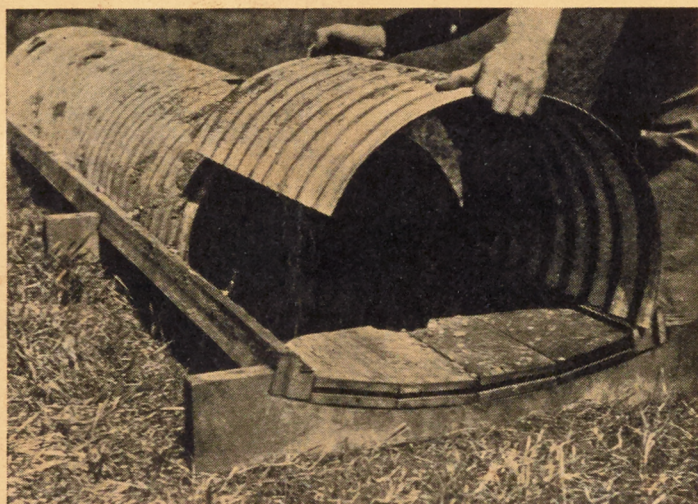


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